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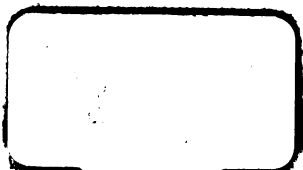
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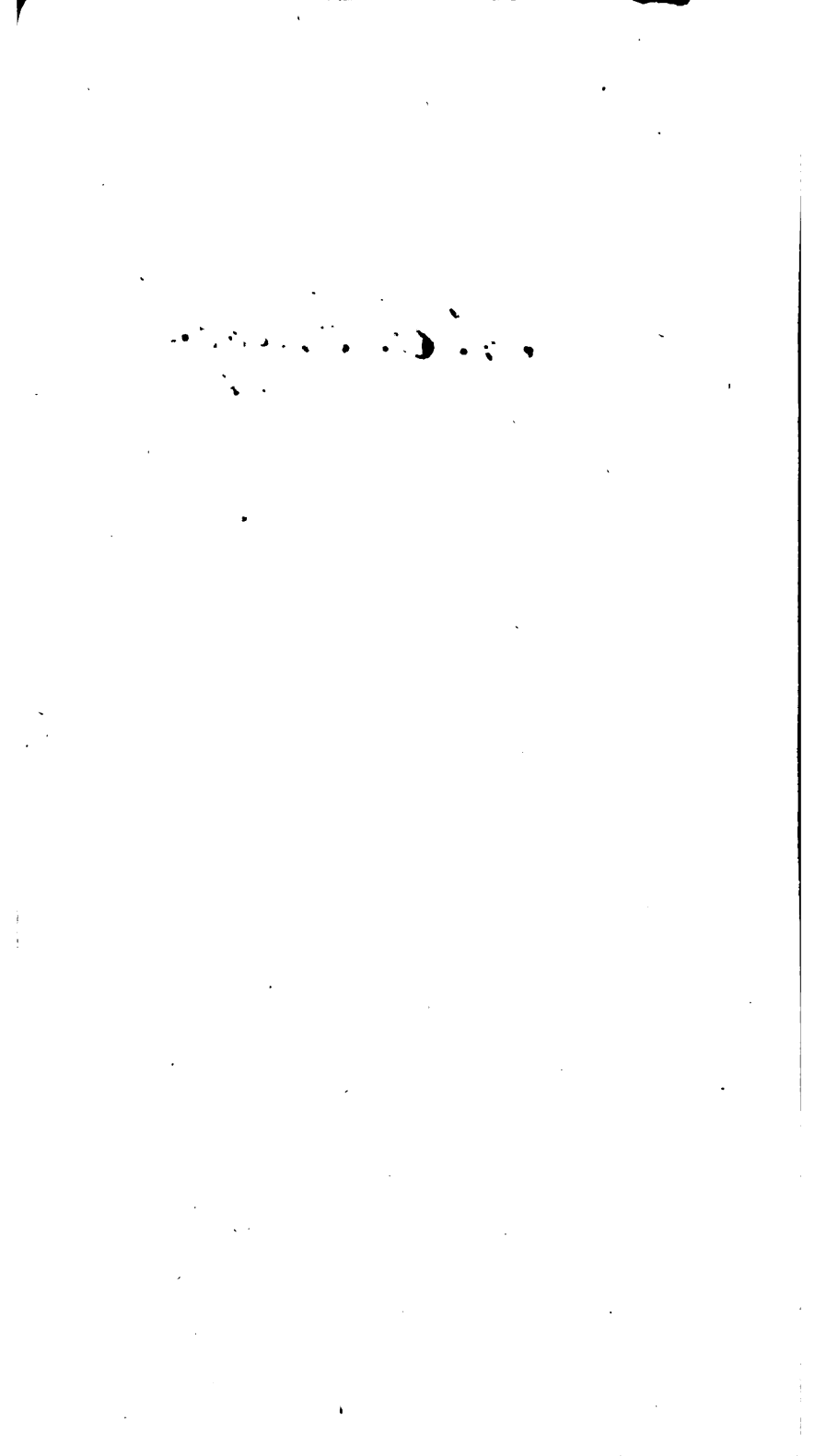
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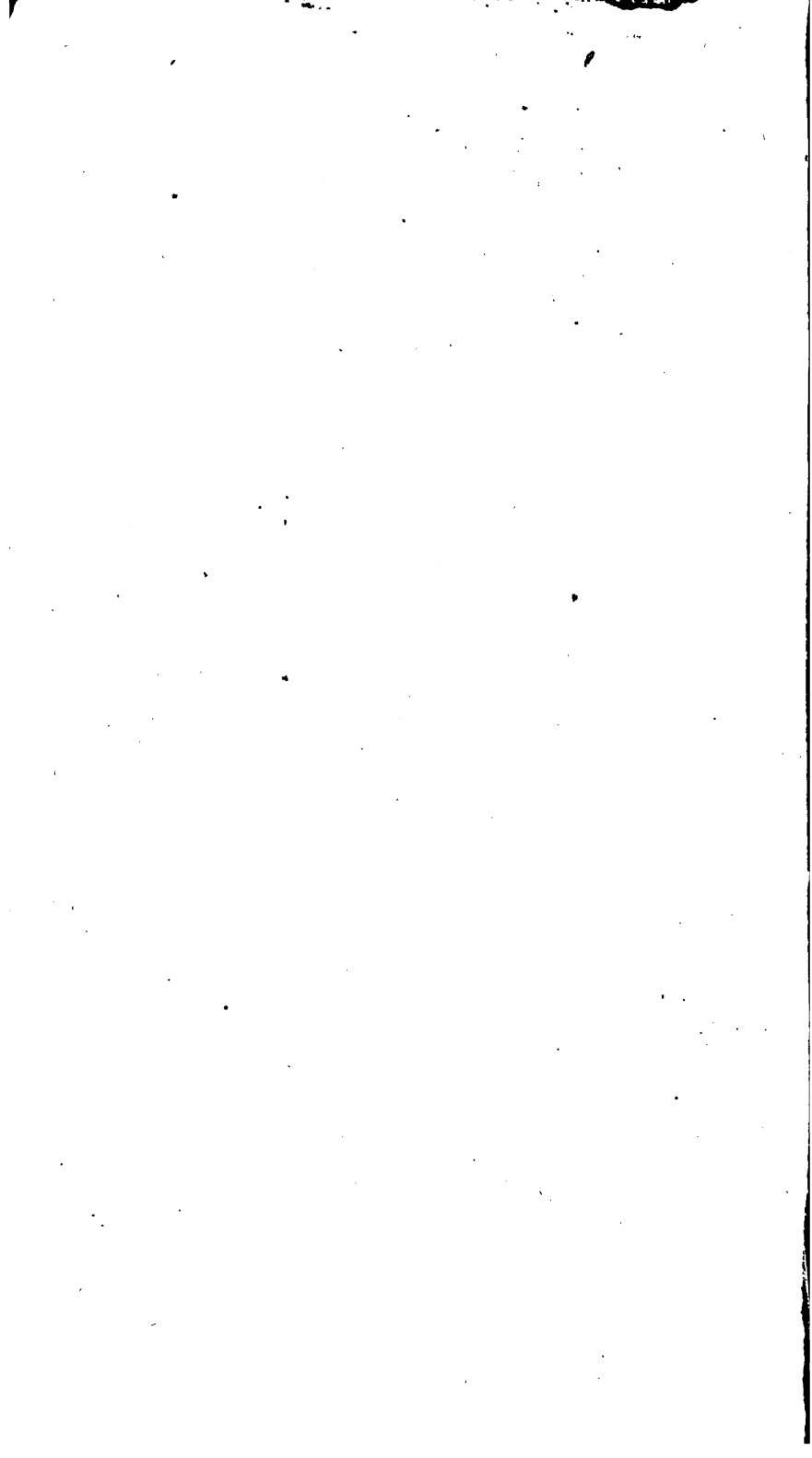


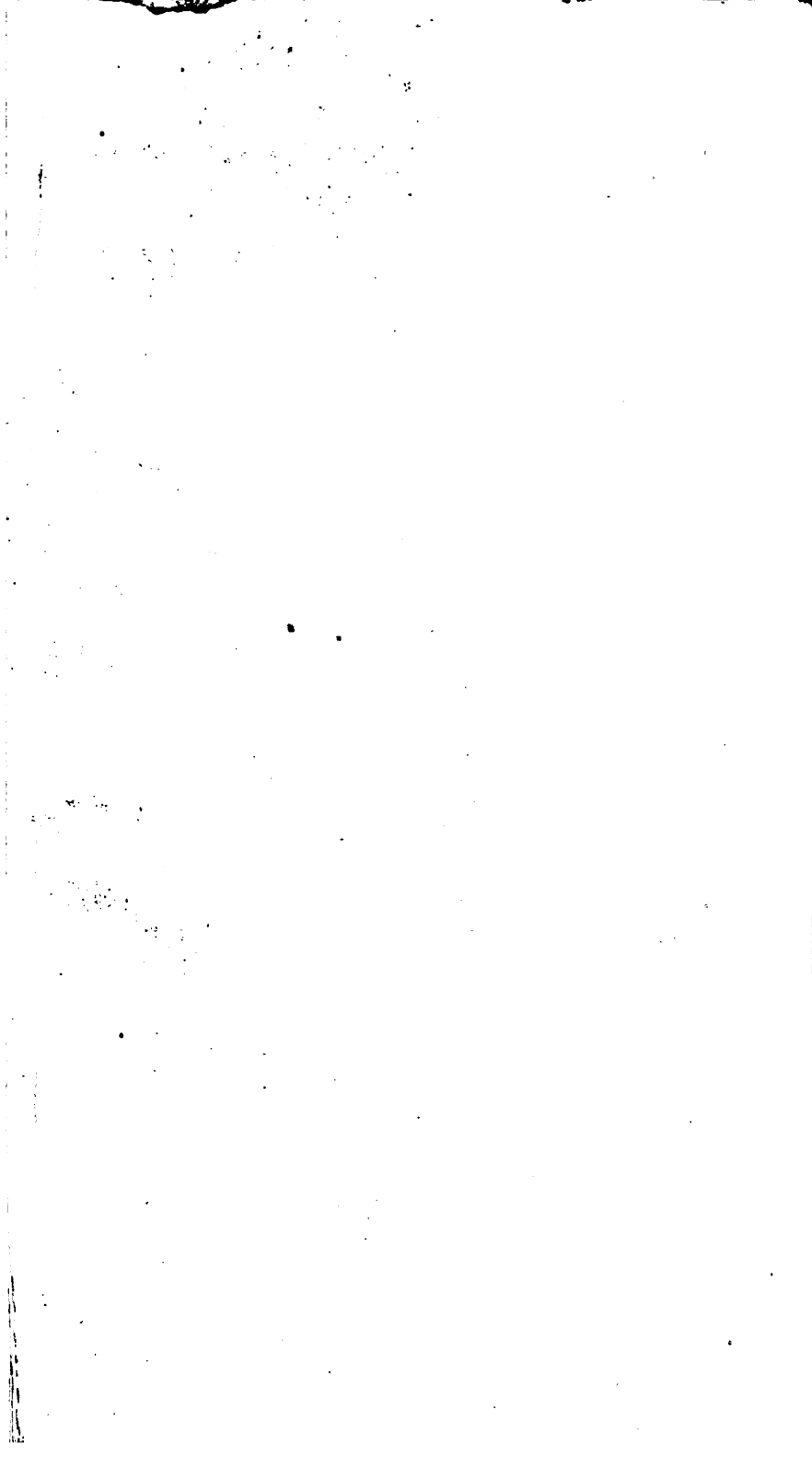
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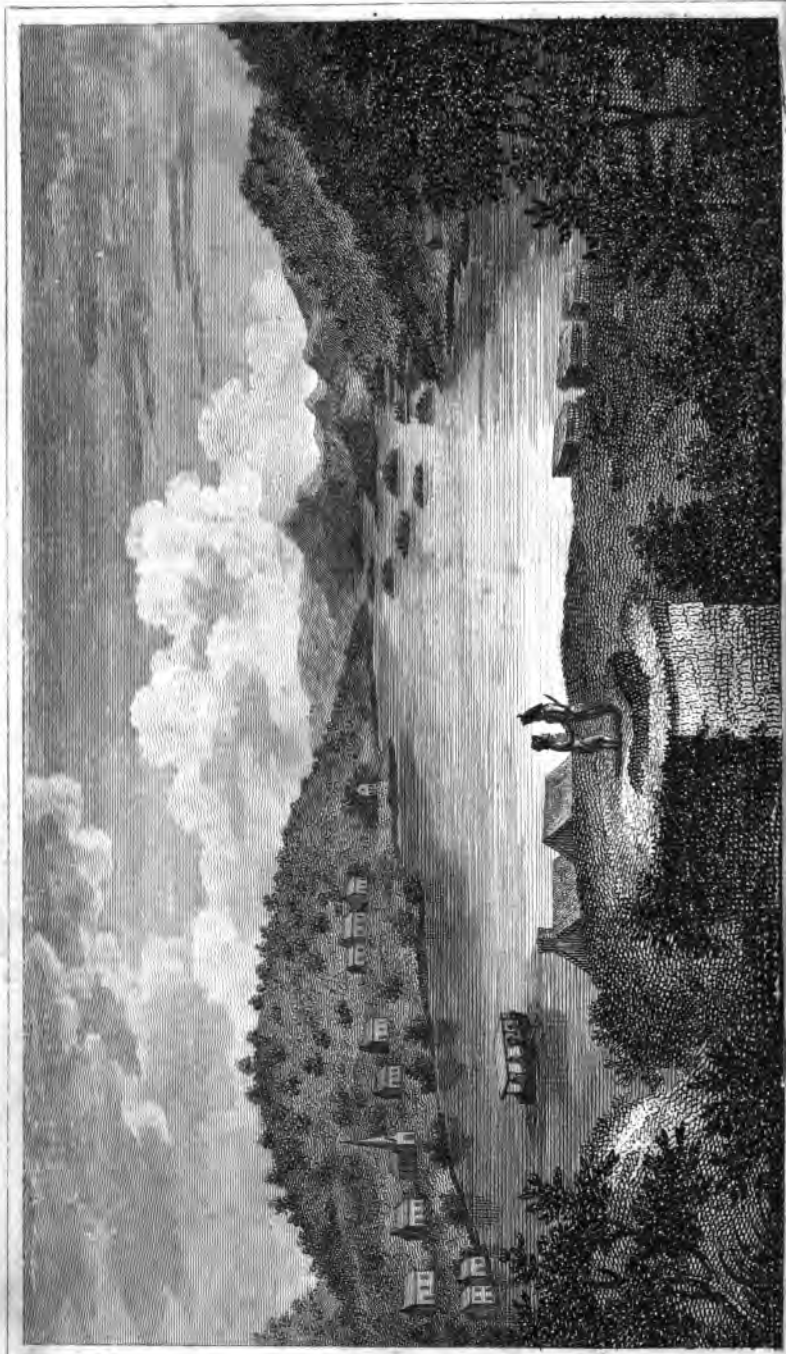
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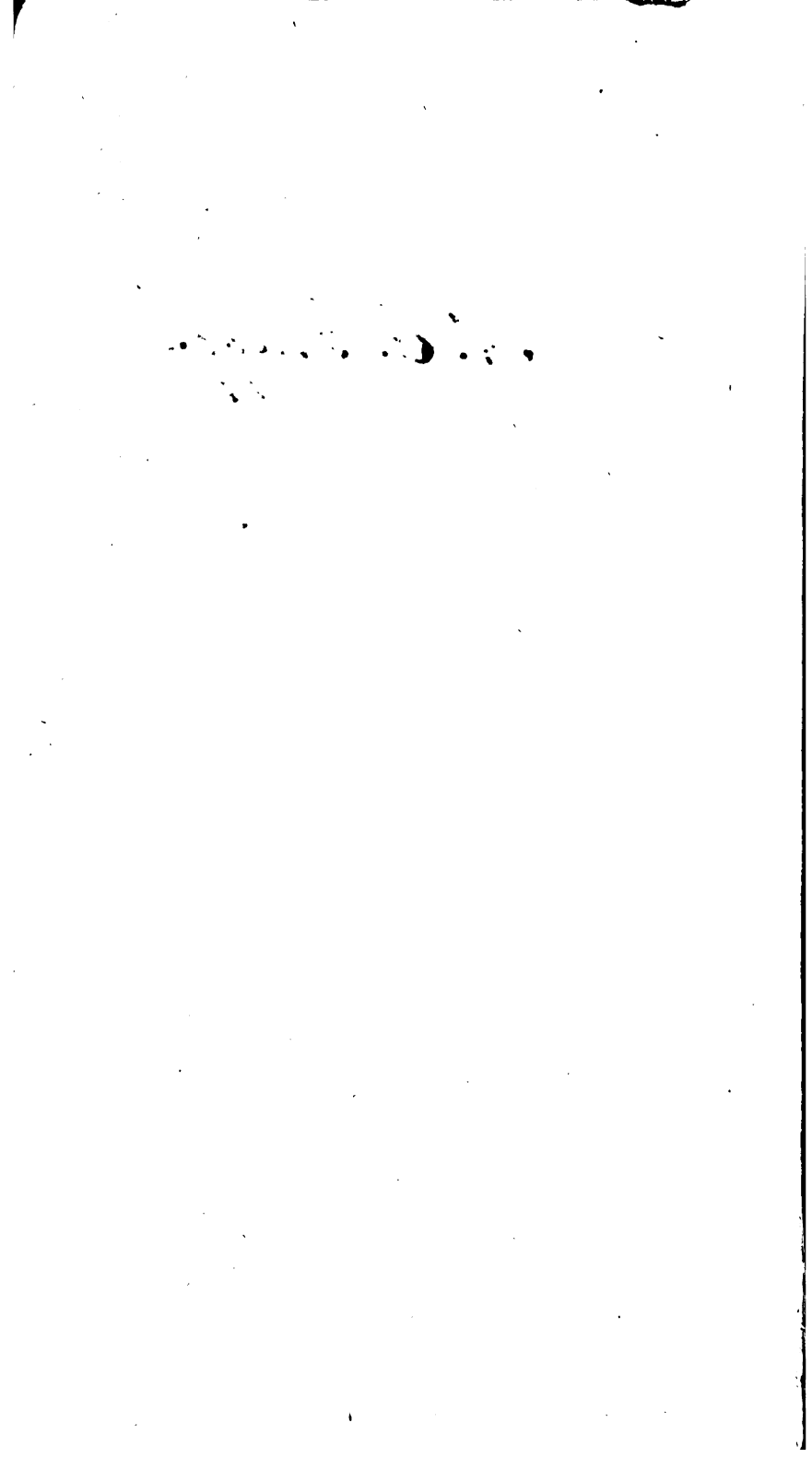
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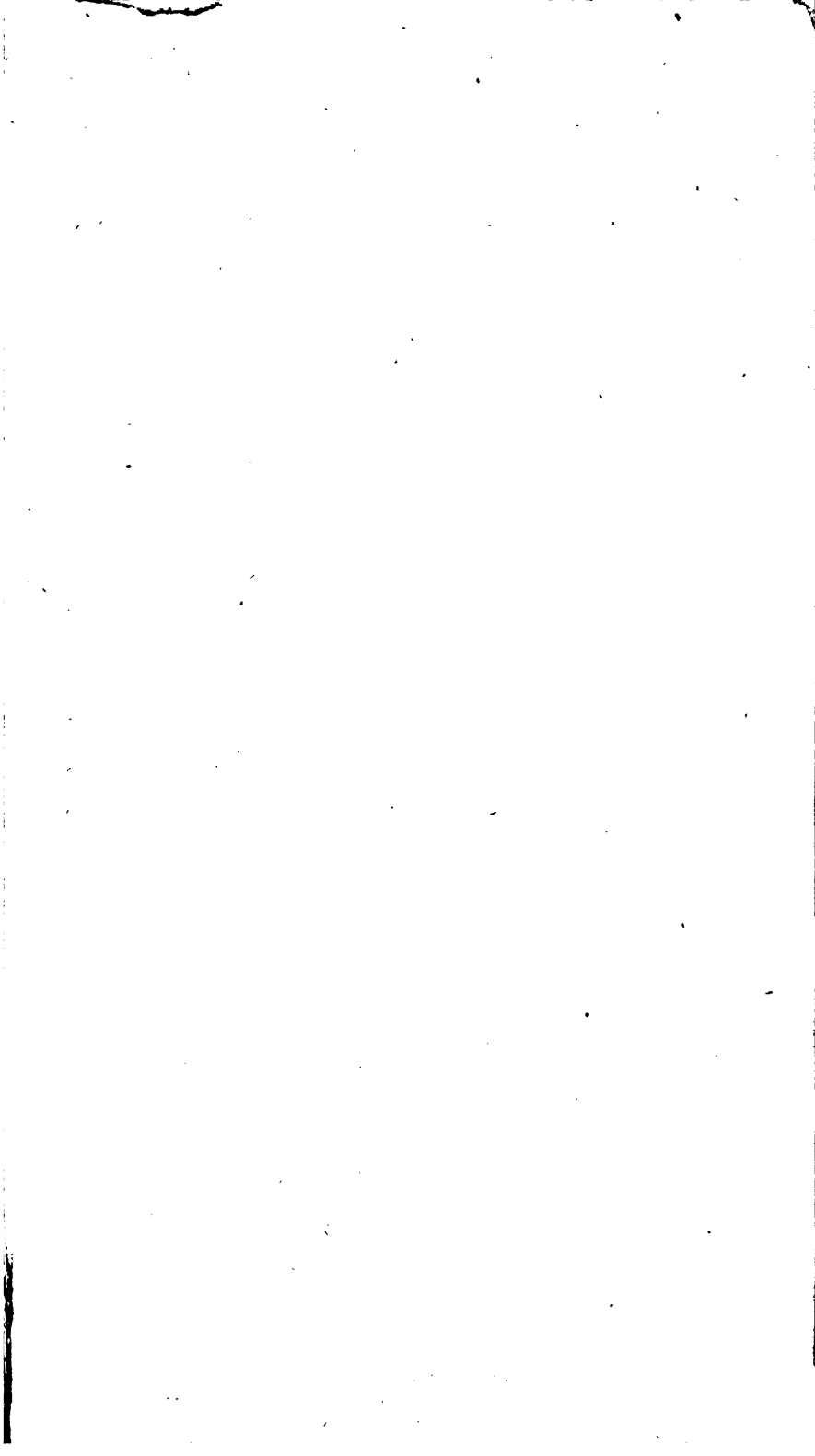
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—♦—
1815.

A. C. Flagg





ral, Religious, Literary, Scientific, Philosophical and Historical Subjects, will be thankfully received ;—as will Biographical Sketches, Reviews, and Notices of New Works and Publications, Accounts of New Inventions and Discoveries, and Specifications of Patents—with every other matter that may be calculated to render this Work useful and acceptable to the Public. With strong predilections for Mechanical Science, the Editor will pay particular attention to every information he may receive of ingenious works of mechanism, and take a pleasure in presenting them to the public.

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Albany, 6 Mo. 10, 1815.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

Observations on the Nature and Cause of Certain Accidents that have usually been ascribed to the "Wind of a Bull."

NOTHING is more common, than to hear individuals who have been in engagements, either on land, or at sea, speak of accidents that occurred from the "*wind of a bull* ;" whilst scientific men have either expressed their disbelief, or else advanced explanations concerning the cause of them, which time and better judgment have silently refuted. The nature of these have lately been the subjects of several interesting essays in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, and as that work is seldom found out of the hands of professional men, I have thought that an abstract of these papers might prove interesting to your readers in general, since it is a subject concerning which, all have heard something, and many are desirous of learning more.

The first Essay is written by Mr. Daniel Ellis, a name of some distinction in the scientific world, and consists of instances of such accidents as form the subject of this communication, and of his opinion concerning the probable cause of them. He commences

the first by quotations from Sir Gilbert Blane's work on the Diseases of Seamen. This distinguished person was physician for many years to the British fleet in the West-Indies, both during and previous to the American war, and accordingly was present at all the naval engagements of that period. His remarks are as follows :

" There is a singular species of accident, to which engagements at sea, are liable, called, perhaps improperly, the *wind of a ball*. In whatever manner it is accounted for, it is a fact, that a part is sometimes severely hurt, and even life destroyed, without any visible external injury or breach of parts, or any appearance of the body from whence the injury proceeded. There were two instances in the battle of April, 1782, of a ball passing close to the stomach and producing instant death. The one was a lieutenant of the Royal Oak, the other a common sailor of the Bedford. A man in another ship, in consequence of a ball passing close to his belly, remained without sense or motion for some time, and a large livid tumor arose on the part, but he recovered. I knew (says he) a brave young officer in the army, the Hon. Captain Fitzroy, (now Lord Southampton) who had his epaulette carried off by a cannon ball at Charlestown, in consequence of which the shoulder and adjacent parts of the neck were affected for some time. A like accident happened to a marine officer in one of the late engagements, but in neither of these was the head materially affected, nor is it so apt to be affected in this way as the stomach. I never knew death the consequence of the wind of a ball on the head, though an officer (Col. Markham) in the Sultan, at the battle of Grenada, was so stunned by a shot passing close to his temple, as to be insensible for some time, but he recovered entirely in a few hours."

" In some cases," continues Dr. Blane, " the bones sustained a severe injury from accidents of this kind. Two instances of it have come to my knowledge : the one was an officer, who fell down during an engagement, without any obvious cause. Upon examination, the thigh was found to be broken, and the limb was two inches shorter, which seemed to proceed from the bone being pulverized, as it were. There was no pain. The skin was not in the least injured ; so that this appears to have been what is called the "*wind of a ball*," but what ought more properly perhaps, to be termed the *brush of a ball*. In the other instance, two of the false ribs were fractured and dislocated, with very little visible af-

section of the skin, though the clothes were torn. This accident proved fatal." Dr. Blane adds "that animals are affected by these accidents as well as men. A cow in the Duke was killed in one of the actions in April, by a double-headed shot passing close to the small of her back."*

"During the blockade of Pontefract Castle, in the year 1645, by the Parliament's army, as Sir Thomas Fairfax and Col. Forbes were standing and conversing together, a cannon shot from the castle passed betwixt them, the *wind* of which cast them both on the ground. Colonel Forbes lost one eye by the accident, but Sir Thomas received no material injury."†

"By the favour of a friend," continues Mr. Ellis, "who at my request, obtained the particulars from an officer of rank in the East-India Company's service, I am enabled to communicate the following additional cases. At the battle of Rohildund, in the year 1774, a cannon ball passed between the thighs of the officer who commanded the artillery, and occasioned much blackness in both thighs, but without producing any breach in the skin. A similar occurrence took place in 1781, in the retreat of the army from the Ghauts, where a shot passed between the thighs of an officer of the Bombay establishment, and produced effects similar to those described above. Both these officers are still living (1812) in England, and have risen to high stations in the army. At the siege of Bassain, near Bombay, in the year 1780, a sepoy who was placed in the trenches to look out for shot, was too late in *dipping*; and a shot, in consequence, knocked off his turban into the trench behind him. The sepoy jumped down to pick it up. A surgeon, who happened to be near the spot, immediately went to him, but found, on examination, that the head was not in the least touched by the ball. From the state of the pulse, however, the surgeon deemed it necessary to send the man to the hospital, and though no external injury could be discovered, the man died in

* Blane on the Diseases of Seamen.

† Hargrave's history of Knaresborough. I may here add the following Extract from the Life of Col. Hutchinson, which is not quoted by Mr. Ellis. "When the Parliamentary army was besieging Newark, as Col. Hutchinson, Poyntz and another Captaine were riding to view some quarter of the town, a cannon bullet came whizzing by them, as they were riding all abreast, and the captaine without any touch of it, sayd, he was killed; Poyntz bid him get of, but he was then sliding downe from his horse, slaine by the *wind* of the bullet: they held him up till they got off from the place, but the man immediately turned black all over."

Life. Octavo Edit. Vol. 2, p. 90.

less than forty-eight hours after the accident. The officer who communicated these facts, and who was in the trenches at the time, thinks that he heard it said that the surgeon (Boyd) examined the sepoy's head after death, and found an effusion of blood."

"The same friend," continues Mr. Ellis, "has informed me that a gentleman now resident in the Highlands of Scotland, while serving as an officer in the siege of Bergen-op-Zoom, and in the act of stooping to assist a soldier who had fallen, lost instantaneously the sight of one eye, and gradually that of the other, in consequence of a cannon ball passing across his face, but without touching it, and lodging in the opposite side of the trench.

"By another friend, who served as an officer at the siege of Seringapatam, I have been informed that a lieutenant of the second battalion of Bengal volunteers, when standing in the trenches before that place, was struck down by a cannon ball passing close to his thigh, which was rendered perfectly black, but there was no breach of the external skin, nor other visible sign of injury. In another instance, a ball passed close to the face of another officer of the same battalion, which struck him down and caused a blackness of the side of the face, but produced no other sensible injury. The same gentleman, however, informed me that Capt. M. of the Bengal Native Infantry, while serving in the army with Lord Lake in the West of India, lost the sight of both eyes by the passage of a cannon ball across his face, which, however, inflicted no external mark of injury. To these instances may be added that of Colonel M. of the Bengal Artillery, who at the siege of Seringapatam, while standing in one of the batteries, and looking through a telescope at the enemy's works, at the distance of between 400 and 500 yards, was struck by a cannon ball, which broke his fore-arm, and passed across his breast, but without touching it. His arm was amputated above the elbow, and nothing unfavorable occurred in the operation. He died, however, in a few days, not, as was conceived, from the effects of the injury done to the arm, but from the "wind of the ball," which in the opinion of the surgeon, acted on his chest, and which was rendered perfectly black, although the external skin remained quite sound. All these instances are represented to have created much discussion among the medical officers of the Indian army, and were generally considered by them to be produced by what has been called the "*wind of a ball.*"

Mr. Ellis states, that he has been anxious to collect examples of these accidents from different and distant sources, in order to counteract the credulity that exists concerning them. Believing the facts indisputable, he next proceeds to examine the *manner* in which the effects are produced.

He first notices the opinions of Dr. Blane, who conjectures that these accidents may be owing to the compression and tremor of the air, in consequence of its resistance of the motion of the ball. From the circumstance of bones being sometimes broken, mere *proximity*, according to him, is not sufficient to produce the effect; but there must be some sort of contact. This, Dr. Blane thinks, is perhaps explicable as follows:—"It has been ascertained, that all balls and bullets, except from rifled pieces, have a rotatory motion, in their flight. It is evident that this motion, on one side of the ball will coincide with the direction of its flight, and the other will be in the opposite direction. Now, if the latter side should come in contact with any part of the body, it is conceivable that, in place of carrying it away, it would roll over it, as it were, and only make a contusion."

To this explanation of Dr. Blane, Mr. Ellis replies that it will not account for many of the accidents that do occur. No force, (says he) for example, impressed upon the air, nor any motion communicated to a ball, can enable these agents, in a mechanical manner to impair vision, break the bones, and even destroy life, without inflicting any visible external injury, or breach of the parts. And he is further of opinion, from the examples cited, that it is to the *contact*, not to the *proximity* of the ball, that the violent effects described above, are to be referred.

Mr. Ellis does not consider these accidents to be produced by the operation of ordinary mechanical agents, but believes them to bear a much nearer resemblance to the effects, which in many cases, succeed to the action of *Atmospheric Electricity*. Instances illustrating this doctrine, in which a stroke of lightning produced similar effects, are quoted by him, from various authors. "A person at Troyes, was killed by lightning, and his bones were found broken, without any appearance of external injury." Livid marks, are also a frequent consequence, together with the loss of vision, or paralysis.

Having established, in his opinion, the similarity of effects resulting from the above causes, Mr. Ellis proceeds to enquire, whether the electric matter existing in the air can be accumulated

or developed, by the motion of a cannon ball, in a quantity adequate to produce the extraordinary effects ascribed to the "wind of a ball." That electric matter is abundantly diffused through the atmosphere, is well known, and is capable, when accumulated, of producing the most violent effects. Mr. E. is not, however of opinion, that a cannon ball, in its flight through so small a portion of air, is able, by friction or other means, to collect from this source alone, electricity sufficient to produce the accidents ascribed to the "wind of a ball," but is inclined to believe that a subtile matter, possessing *electrical properties*, may be developed from the air by the operations of chemical action. The illustrations of his theory are as follows :

All permanently elastic fluids owe their gaseous form to the presence of caloric in a *latent* state, and when the elasticity of the gas is reduced or overcome, its latent caloric is more or less set free. The oxygenous portion of our atmosphere contains a large quantity of heat, and when, in combustion or other chemical operations, the gas loses its elasticity, its caloric is developed and exhibited in a *sensible* state. This subtile or calorific matter, which oxygen gas is thus capable of affording, may be made to exhibit the properties of the electric fluid, for Dr. Wallaston found that this gas contributed to the production of electricity, by entering into the amalgam of the rubber of the machine; and that, when the machine was duly insulated, no electricity was developed, either if the oxygen gas was withdrawn, or if an amalgam, incapable of oxidation, was employed*—facts which seem clearly to prove that air contains in a latent state, electric or other similar matter, and that it yields this matter, in a sensible state, when, in these instances, it enters into *chemical combination*.

Farther, a subtile matter, resembling in its properties the electric fluid, is developed from the air, when its elasticity is reduced by *mechanical* means. By simply doubling the ordinary density of the air, Mr. Dalton found that caloric was disengaged sufficient to raise the temperature several degrees, and in a greater and more rapid condensation to which the air is submitted in an air gun, a flash of light is sometimes visible as Mr. Fletcher observed.† Mr. Mollet farther remarked, that combustible substances were readily inflamed in a condensing syringe, by a few strokes of the piston, and in subsequent experiments of M. Biot,

* Philos. Trans. for 1801.

† Nicholson's Journal, Vol. 10.

oxygen and hydrogen gasses, mingled in the proportions proper to form water, afforded, by their rapid condensation, subtile matter sufficient to inflame them, in the same manner, and with the same phenomena as the electric spark operates.* Without contending therefore, continues Mr. Ellis, for the absolute identity of caloric and the electric fluid, these facts must be allowed to prove that a subtile matter, exhibiting the appearances and possessing the distinguishing properties of that fluid, exists in gaseous bodies, and that it may be developed by reducing their elasticity, whether this be accomplished by chemical or mechanical means. Is it then probable that a cannon ball, in its flight through the air, acts upon it in such a manner as to develop and accumulate a quantity of this subtile matter?

From the experiments of Dr. Hutton, it appears that a cannon ball, of about two inches in diameter, moving with the velocity of one thousand feet per second, encounters a resistance from the air equal to three hundred and fifty ounces, while the resistance opposed to the same ball, when moving with a double velocity, is equal to one thousand five hundred and sixty-nine ounces, or more than four times as great; by this increasing resistance and consequent condensation of the air, its latent caloric will necessarily be developed, and as this subtile matter has been shewn, in many of its properties to resemble the electric fluid, it may like it, be supposed to accumulate in the ball, and be carried forward with it, either till the velocity of the ball so much diminishes as to permit its gradual effusion, or till like the electric fluid, it be suddenly drawn off, in the passage of the ball, by some less highly-charged conducting substance. In the latter event, it may according to its intensity, produce those accidents already described, and hence the effects usually ascribed to the "*wind of a ball*," may be considered as in their nature, truly *electrical*, and as really caused by the *agency of the subtile matter* developed, by the *condensation of the air* during the projectiles' rapid motion.

I may add, (says Mr. E.) that those who have witnessed the effect of the caloric matter, developed by the condensation of a few cubic inches of air, in a common syringe, will readily conceive what may be the operation of a twenty-four pounder, the section of whose great circle is about twenty-five square inches, and which therefore in a flight of three hundred yards, at about

* Harvey's *Traite De Phys.*

point blanc range, must in half a second of time, act upon and displace one hundred and fifty-six cubic feet of air.

This condensation of subtile matter can however, only take place in the earlier period of the flight of the ball, since the air by its greater resistance then, also suffers greater condensation. In this respect the theory agrees with the actual occurrence of the accidents. In a dry atmosphere also the accumulation may be greater than in a moist one, on account of the conducting and dispersing property of the air in the latter; and this Mr. E. supposes may account for the greater frequency of such accidents, in the East and West Indies, than in Europe; lastly, most of these occur in Sea engagements, or at Sieges, in both of which the parties fight often within *point blanc* range and the ball proceeds nearly in a horizontal course, but in land engagements, from the elevation of the piece and the greater distance at which it is served, the ball is soon carried out of its horizontal course, and does not again come near its object until its velocity is so much spent as to disable it from producing those effects on the air, which attend its rapid motion.

Such is the theory of Mr. Ellis and the arguments on which it is founded, and however much its correctness may be questioned, none, I believe, will deny it the praise of ingenuity.

Dr. Spence, a Surgeon in the British Navy, in a subsequent communication, expressed his disbelief in the theory of Mr. Ellis, and is disposed to attribute many of these accidents to the circumstance of cannon balls carrying light substances with them, which cause injury, by the velocity imparted to them. Canvass rope-yarn, and parts of bedding at sea, and shrubs, grass and mud, are instances of these. "I know an officer, (says Dr. Spence) who had considerable pain in the loins for some time after a battle, supposed to be from the *wind of a shot*, as he was not conscious of any thing having hit him, and there was no external mark; but the flakes of a bed from the hammock nettings, being pretty thick on his coat, shewed to me that the pain was produced by something more dense than wind, and had it been the stomach that was hit, instead of the back, I think it very probable that officer would have been killed." Many of the injuries he also thinks may be attributed to the fall itself, such as the fracturing of a limb, &c. Dr. Spence further observes, that during an action at sea, accidents will often occur without the individual being conscious of their cause, and indeed, of their *existence*, until the excitement of the occasion is over.

A third communication is from the Rev. Patrick Forbes, clergyman at Bobarm, (Scotland.) This gentleman is of opinion that Mr. Ellis has not established the identity of caloric & electricity, & states that if electricity produces such effects, it is strange that parts equally necessary to life, and as easily injured, such as the brain and stomach, should be so differently affected; the "*wind of a ball*" in one case being fatal, and in the other attended only in general, with temporary consequences. To Dr. Spences' theory, he objects that the very force given to the light bodies, should produce the usual effect of violence, when striking against the body, and that according to the common order of things, external as well as internal injury ought to be the consequence.

According to Mr. Forbes, there is a mechanical cause that will sufficiently account for the effects produced by a ball passing close to the human body, and that is the vacuum produced by the rapid motion of the ball through the air. When a ball thus passes close to the stomach, there is in the first place, a great addition to the pressure on that viscus, from the condensation of the air; as soon as the ball has passed, this pressure, with a great part of that of the atmosphere is taken off; the consequence of which is a sudden expansion of all the fluids in the stomach, and the blood in the blood-vessels, and the rupture of both. The rupture of the stomach is the cause of death, and the extravasation of the blood, the cause of the black appearance externally: this also will account for Dr. Blane's case of the *pulverized thigh bone*. Electricity would have shivered it lengthwise, by the passage of the fluid to the earth, but a vacuum produced on one side and the pressure of the atmosphere on the other, might produce these local effects by the sudden expansion of the fluids in the internal and vascular part of the bone.

The reason why the passage of a ball near the head is less fatal may, according to Mr. Forbes, be explained, from the greater resistance which spherical bodies oppose to the pressure of the atmosphere; and the blindness which is sometimes induced, is probably owing to the sudden expansion of the humours of the eye.

An anonymous writer concludes this discussion with an essay on the various hypotheses that have been offered, and which I have already detailed. He does not consider that any of them are correct, and seems disposed altogether to doubt the effects ascribed to the "*wind of a ball*," originating according to this writer,

In a love of the marvellous: they have maintained their popularity principally with seamen, a class of persons prone to superstition. If deaths do occur in the heat of an engagement, and no external injury is perceived, apoplexy or some similar disease is more probably the cause. If there was any truth in the opinion, deaths would be more numerous in every engagement than they really are; since it is probable that as many balls pass within a hairs breadth, as those that strike the men, and above all, if every shot that hits an individual, produces not only the effects of mechanical violence, but also of accumulated electricity, every wound would most certainly be instantly fatal.

I here rest the subject, without venturing to give a decided opinion on one side or the other, and only express a hope that it may attract the attention of some of your scientific Correspondents, and that they will favor the public with their observations or researches on this interesting question. X.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

AN ESSAY ON COINS, &c.

When the art of printing was unknown, tradition and manuscript were the grand channels which conveyed from one age to another, the blessings of knowledge; but the torch of tradition too often shed an illusive, though brilliant light on objects darkened by antiquity; and homely less frequently conducted the genius of manuscript, than private prejudice. Circumstances, however, stamped on pieces of metal by public power, and thus transmitted to posterity, are not so liable to error; and therefore an essay on coins and medals, shewing their connection with civil history, religion and the arts, is an important and interesting desideratum; but this has been unattempted by learned ingenuity, or persevering diligence. Goguet, has given us in a dissertation annexed to the last volume of his origin of Laws, Arts, &c. a few hints respecting the weight and value of Grecian money; but he passes without notice every device which Grecian ingenuity and superstition stamped upon it.* Dr. Prideaux, in a preface to his Connections, has but lightly touched on the subject of ancient Roman currency. Addison has dipped his mellifluent pen into this subject, which has interested by its elegance, and brightened by its

* The reverses of many Greek and Roman coins when Christianity first spread over these countries, were of an idolatrous nature.

The earliest silver coins of Rome represent the head of the Goddess Roma, who like Minerva is always figured wearing a helmet.

illustration where ever it moved; his plan, however, was very limited. The Abbe. Barthelemi, Cumberland, Bernard, Goltzius, Arbuthnot, and many others who have written on coins, say little respecting their ornamental or historical designs; their object is principally confined, to the commercial value of money. We propose in this dissertation, not only to examine it with this view, but to offer some hints respecting its invention, and its progressive history; and also to shew how far an accurate study of its device, may instruct us in the origin of some of the arts, unfold to us ancient superstition, and teach us many historical events, which without its aid we should never have learned.

We shall always use the terms coin, medal, and money, as synonymous, though we are aware that this is a great liberty; our reason for doing this, is to avoid a confusion to which we are liable, should we assign to each word its peculiar signification; for at this period, so far removed from the one in which we shall be engaged during most of our researches, it is impossible to distinguish between those pieces struck for the purposes of traffic, and those stamped as rewards of merit; it may not, however, be improper to give a definition of each of the terms. A coin is a piece of metal impressed with a certain device, to prevent fraud in its currency, being a standard by which the value of articles bought and sold may be ascertained, and serving as an equivalent for the same. Money differs from coin, in its being *any substance*, which public authority substitutes in its place; and a medal, in the strict sense of the word, is "a piece of metal struck on any occasion, in order to preserve the portrait of some great person, or the memory of some illustrious action." We shall make three principal divisions of our subject. Under the first, we shall consider the invention and progressive improvement of coins; in the second, their commercial value; and in the last division, the nature and importance of their devices.

First as to the origin and progress of Coining.—If we look back to the history of coinage, we find it involved in much obscurity. Antiquity has thrown her veil over the commencement of almost every art and every science, and the penetrating eye of persevering genius has seldom discovered knowledge in the first steps of her progress; here and there a fact will catch the attention of the enquirer; but the intervals are long and important; what we this moment observed in a rude, defective state, we now discover almost arrived to perfection. As we have no tradition which extends to the period when mankind first bartered with each other, speculation must supply its place.

What first suggested the idea of using coins as a general medium in exchange for wares, was no doubt the difficulty of making an equal barter of one commodity for another.* This inconvenience would be felt the moment human societies were formed, and this moment was that in which the earth was first peopled. It is supposed by many that the first coins were of metal, because, say they, metals are the only substances which can be divided and formed into single masses again without subtracting much from their original value. We may, perhaps, with some confidence object to this theory. In Iceland at the present day, tobacco and fish are current as money, and though the Danes have introduced their copper and silver coin on the island, yet any article which falls under the value of twelve fish, must be bartered for fish, or tobacco—48 fish are equivalent to one dollar, and a roll of tobacco an ell in length is reckoned the value of a fish. In many parts of Asia and Africa shells pass with the inhabitants for money; and among the Chilians, Peruvians, Mexicans, and other people of South America with whom gold and silver so much abound, these metals were not known as coin before the arrival of the Spaniards. From these and other instances which might be cited we conclude that metal was not the first substance used for money, but as the state of society advanced in improvement and as knowledge began to expand the mind, the advantages which the metals possess over other substances, as money, would be quickly perceived and adopted. Many believe that the least precious metal commenced the history and use of coins, but why this opinion is maintained we do not perceive. Iron, which is the least precious, though the most important, is of all the metals the most difficult to reduce from its ore, to a state in which it can be advantageous to commerce or the arts, and even when separated from the ore, it is as hard as at first—it must be softened before it can be forged, and this requires more knowledge than the ancients possessed when money began to circulate.

* The Romans like other ancient nations at first had no coined money, but either exchanged commodities with one another, or used a certain weight of uncoined brass or other metal. Hence the various names of money also denote weight—so *pendere* for *solvere* to pay, &c. Several Greek words are supposed to allude to the original custom of exchanging commodities, thus *apropnai*, to exchange by giving a lamb; *aps*, agnus; *aseopnai*, by giving an ass; *aseg*, asinus. From this hint no doubt Servius Tullius stamped pieces of brass, the first metal the Romans coined, with the images of cattle, (Pecudes) hence *pecunia*; the English word money is from *Moneta*, the name of the temple where the Romans coined their brass.

Gold, silver and copper* were beyond all doubt the first used for they were the first discovered, and the art of working them was first known. Iron was employed by Tubal Cain before the deluge, but the Spirit of the mighty deep buried in its bosom, besides the mortal existence, almost every discovery of man, and the ancients declare that there was a time when that metal was unknown.†

The mode first employed in converting metal into coin we suppose to be, by beating small masses, after their separation from the ore, into thin flat plates and then cutting them into different sizes according to the weight required; for that money was estimated by weight in the first æra of its history and for a long time after, there can be no question. We read in Genesis that Abraham purchased of Ephron, the son of Zohar, a burying place about

* It is remarkable that copper coinage was not in use in Greece till after the close of the Peloponnesian war. Dr. Clark states that it was first introduced at Athens at the *persuasion* of one Dionysius. From this it appears that the Greeks were rather opposed to the use of copper for the common purposes of life, being probably under the impression that the salts of copper, which are so apt to collect on this metal when much exposed, were deleterious to animal life—it was employed however, in combination with other metals in the manufacture of many domestic utensils and also for their weapons of war. In mixture with tin it formed the bronze for the armour of the Trojans; and many of the medals now found at Tenedos are of bronze, which are perhaps the same metal which once protected the heroes of Homer.

The first coins of the North of Europe were of copper. Those used in Great Britain in the time of Cæsar were of brass, (zinc and copper;) and the earliest Roman coins (those of Servius Tullius) were also of brass.

Werner supposes with great probability that copper was the first metal worked by mankind. In the western parts of North America there are some tribes of savages who though but little civilized, have shaped into many domestic conveniences the native copper of the country, which is found in large pure masses on the surface of the ground.

† Lycurgus who was obliged to fly to Crete, owing to an accusation of designing to usurp the throne of his nephew Charilaus then in his minority, upon his return was solicited to direct the government. One of his first steps it is said was a prohibition of the use of gold and silver and the substitution of iron money in its place—which was reduced in value so low that it required a waggon and two oxen to transport from place to place 50 dollars (our money) of it. This historical account we cannot admit. The value of money does not consist in the purity of the metal used but only in the estimate fixed by public authority;—this regulation would therefore in no wise counteract the luxury of the Lacedæmonians. At Rome, in the first Punic war, a species of coin (as) weighing one pound was reduced to two ounces which passed for the same value as those of the pound weight had done. And in the second war the same coin was reduced to half an ounce. About 260 years after Lycurgus the highest valuation of fortune at Rome was one hundred thousand pounds weight of brass. Besides, it is highly improbable that iron was substituted, for at the time of the Trojan war it was but little known in Greece; indeed it was discovered only 13 years previous to that period, by the accidental burning of a forest, and about 15 or 20 years after gold and silver were first used as money at Argos, which happened 894 years before the Christian Æra. Iron money we therefore consider as not having currency before this period.

thirty miles south of Jerusalem, for his wife Sarah, for four hundred shekels of silver, or about 2000 dollars. Indeed among the Jews before the Roman conquest, money was reckoned by weight.

At the present period the Chinese weigh their money, and the Prussians in 1654, used bars of silver with notches which designated the weight of the intermediate pieces—from this custom sprung the word rouble. The trouble and disadvantage of cutting and weighing money whenever wanted, however, would shortly appear, and the convenience of coming to market with it thus prepared, would be generally practiced. But the fallacy of trusting entirely to appearance for the precise weight of each piece would be noticed immediately, and the idea of distinguishing the same mass by the same character, and different masses by different characters would readily suggest itself. Perhaps similar marks to those which at present designate the number of grains and pennyweights in the brass measure used in Troy weight, were the first impressions which coin received.* This short and easy manner of coining could not for any length of time continue. The eye of Fraud that is ever on the watch to contaminate, disturbed with her arts this simple process, and this being discovered, the privilege of coining which before was general, was resigned to public authority, and then complex devices were substituted for simple figures; and at length the head of the prince, the date, and the legend.

Till the year 1552 all coining was performed with the hammer,†

* The figure of a tortoise which is one of the emblematical representations of Peloponessus, is the earliest impression on Grecian money. Whether the tortoise was the first figure, after simple marks, ever made on coin, may admit of some question. Figures emblematical of the country, we think more than probable were struck before the head of the ruling Prince. The crescent which blazes on the Turkish banner is the most ancient symbol of Byzantium, and appears on the most antique medals of that city. The AS of the Romans which was their first brass coin, bears the impression of a double Janus. In opposition to the opinion that complex figures succeeded immediately to simple marks, may be stated that the Denarius of the Romans, the value of which was ten pounds of brass, bore the mark of the letter X;—the Quinarius, valued at five pounds of brass, the mark V.; and the Sestertius, two pounds and a half of brass, was marked by the letters LL. S. (*libra. libra. semis.*)

This mode of distinguishing coins would be a more easy transition from simple marks, but the mind does not always proceed by regular advances, in its march of investigation.

† Medals representing particular circumstances were often engraved, as but a small number were required. Thus in the time of Ptolemy Philadelphus 270 years B. C. medals were engraved representing in miniature, his splendid achievements in the arts. Dr. Gillies observes, that by these medals only we can now estimate the reports delivered down to us concerning the wonderful splendor of public buildings, either in the cities embellished by Ptolemy or in those which he founded.

when Anthony Brusher, a French engraver, contrived what he called a coining mill, but it was not till a century after its invention that its use became common; and even now, in Russia, Morocco and Persia the use of the hammer is still continued. Thus have we endeavoured to sketch, from probability and from fact, an outline of the general history of coining.

(To be continued.)

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

THE acknowledged importance and vast magnitude of the British trade in wool and woollen manufactures, having induced me, some years since, to investigate the origin and history of this great branch of national wealth to Britain, I send you a few facts and observations on the subject, presuming they may gratify the curiosity of some of your readers. It will be seen that these facts are thrown carelessly together, and that I am far from having attempted any thing more than a hasty collection, merely to gratify a kind of curiosity excited by the growth of our own trade in the same line.

Pinkerton says, * "Wool had been regarded as a grand staple of England, as early as the 12th century, but was chiefly exported in a crude state, till Edward III. encouraged settlements of Flemish manufactures. Wool soon became the standard of private property and the prime article of commerce. Taxes and foreign subsidies were estimated by sacks of this commodity. Great quantities of raw wool continued to be exported to the Netherlands and Hanse Towns; but in the reign of Elizabeth it began to be chiefly manufactured at home, and the exportation of woollen cloth was then valued at a million and a half annually. At length the exportation of raw wool was prohibited." It is stated on the same authority, that in 1807, the English manufacture of wool was supposed to yield 15,000,000 pounds sterling. In 1810, it was estimated at 17,200,000 pounds.

But the most striking circumstances in the view I have taken of this subject, is the vast number of sheep, and amount of wool in Great Britain and Ireland at such early periods. In 1467, sheep were permitted to be exported from England to Spain.

In an old book entitled 'A Plan of English Commerce,' the author enters into detailed enumerations of the number of sheep in England, Scotland and Ireland, and the amount of the trade

* Mod. Geog. vol. I. p. 101.

in wool. He says that in June, 1673, he was informed 'by very grave and creditable persons,' inhabitants of the town of Dorchester, that upon a wager decided, it was made appear there were 600,000 sheep feeding within a circle of twelve miles diameter embracing that town. And a like account from grave and judicious persons, informed him of 400,000 sheep at one time offered for sale at Weyhill fair; and at Burford fair in Dorsetshire, in the same year, upwards of 600,000 were offered for sale. But, he says 'the business of *growing* wool, is not confined to small parts, or towns, or districts, or counties, but is every where in all parts an employment of the people, not by thousands but millions.' Ireland, at that time, yielded 100,000 packs of wool per annum to England, the pack being 240 pounds. He says that Scotland sent yearly to the London market, at least 120,000 sheep. The South Downs, an extent of sixty-five miles in length and five or six miles wide, was 'all covered with sheep of a small size, but of the finest wool;' and here he reckons 110,000 sheep that produce fleece wool, exclusive of the yearlings or lambs. Romney marsh, wholly employed in breeding and feeding of sheep, produced 141,330 fleeces. In 1607, the wool annually sent from Scotland to be manufactured in England, was valued at 60,000 pounds sterling.

I pass by the many excellent remarks of this writer on the different kinds of sheep in England, their comparative value, and the means suggested of further improvement. They were, no doubt, good in their time, and there was a time when they might have been deeply interesting and instructive to our farmers. In America, we are but just beginning to appreciate the value of sheep, and the enquiry which I had started might lead to valuable discussions. I hope some person will favor the public, through the same channel, with an estimate or account of the number of sheep in this country. If I recollect rightly, I have somewhere seen lately, that the number in Britain is computed at 25,000,000. It seems to be pretty generally admitted that no country is more favorable to the raising of sheep than the United States, and that no other animal affords so great a profit to the farmer;—nor has he, on any other product of his labor and expense, a profit at once so great and certain.

AGRICOLA.

LITERATURE OF THE WEST.

The following address, sent us from Cincinnati on the Ohio, in a small Pamphlet, presents a pleasing and instructive view of the progress of the arts, and of the spirit of improvement in the Western Country. We thank our Correspondent for his attention in forwarding it, and solicit a continuation of his favors.

ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,—

You have equal reason with myself, to regret the absence of that distinguished member,* to whom was assigned the delivery of an oration on this evening. Having, so recently, been appointed his successor, I should not venture to exhibit my crude and desultory performance, which has been hastily executed in the midst of pre-existing engagements, but for a conviction, that his removal has imposed on every member an obligation to augmented industry. Under this impression, and in the hope of your indulgence, I shall proceed with confidence in the execution of my task.

Our first year's labors were closed, by the interesting discourse, which has just been read. During that period, we have assembled for literary exercise, more than twenty times; and our President has delivered, on Astronomy and Natural Philosophy, a variety of Lectures, equally eloquent and perspicuous. He has deduced from them sentiments both amiable and exalted, such as a philosophical survey of the works of God invariably excite; and has interspersed them with many impressive recommendations of the pleasure conferred by the acquisitions of knowledge. Thus, from his labors have resulted both instruction of the understanding, and improvement of the heart. The objects and character of our infant association have been defined and established; an impetus has been given it, and regular exertion only is wanting, to raise it into notice and respectability.

The essays of the members, if less learned and profound, have equalled all *reasonable* expectations. Some of them consist chiefly of original matter, while others manifest a degree of research, which is honorable to their authors, and auspicious to the School.

It would be amusing to review their contents, but being restricted to limits too narrow for that undertaking, I will substitute a catalogue of their titles, that, by a single glance we may see the

* Josiah Meigs, Esquire.

number and diversity of the subjects to which our attention has been directed. I shall enumerate them in the order of their delivery :

1 An Essay on Education—2 on the Earthquakes of 1811, 1812 and 1813—3 on Light—4 on Carbon—5 on Air—6 on the Mind—7 on Agriculture—8 on Caloric—9 on Gravitation—10 on Instinct—11 Notices of the Auroræ Boreales of the 17th of April and 11th of September, 1814—12 an Essay on Water, considered chemically and hydrostatically—13 on Common Sense—14 on Heat—15 on Mechanical Powers—16 on the Theory of Earthquakes—17 on Enthusiasm—18 on the Geology of Cincinnati and its vicinity, illustrated with mineral specimens and a vertical map—19 on the Internal Commerce of the United States—20 on Hydrogen—21 on Rural Economy—22 on the Geology of some parts of New-York—23 on General Commerce.

The third and subordinate portion of our exercises, poetical recitation, has been strictly performed; and our ALBUM of poetry already exhibits specimens indicative of a cultivated taste. The proposition to connect with the pieces recited, such critical remarks as they may suggest, has received some attention, and promises to give to this branch of our performances an interest and dignity which were not originally anticipated.

Such, briefly, is the character of our introductory labors. Their retrospection cannot fail to excite a portion of complacency and hope in our selves, though from our fellow citizens they may extort neither the meed of approbation, nor the humbler reward of occasional attendance. These, however, are certainly attainable. Our lot, gentlemen, is cast in a region abundant in but few things, except the products of a rich and unexhausted soil. Learning, philosophy and taste, are yet in early infancy, and the standard of excellence in literature and science is proportionably low. Hence, acquirements, which in older and more enlightened countries would scarcely raise an individual to mediocrity, will here place him in a commanding station. Those who attain to superiority in the community of which they are members, are relatively great. Literary excellence in Paris, London or Edinburgh, is *incomparable* with the same thing in Philadelphia, New-York or Boston: while each of these, in turn, has a standard of merit, which may be contrasted, but cannot be compared, with that of Lexington or Cincinnati. Still, comparative superiority in Europe, the Atlantic States, or Back-woods, is equally gratifying; and gives to him who possesses it, the same influence over the community to which he belongs.

But it will, perhaps, be asserted, that in a state so young as this no literary distinction is attainable, that would outvalue its cost; that academies and colleges are yet scarcely instituted; that libraries, philosophical apparatus and scientific teachers are equally rare and imperfect; that associations for improvement, animated and impelled by a persevering spirit, can find no habitation in these rude and chequered settlements; and, lastly, that our countrymen are accustomed to look with frigid indifference on every species of literary effort. This is, indeed, pouring cold water on the flame of literary ambition: but that noble passion is not to be thus extinguished; and if a single spark remain, it will enable us to perceive, through the Gothic darkness which envelopes our literature and science, the certain though narrow paths to a brighter region.

New countries, it is true, cannot afford the elegancies and refinements of learning; but they are not so unpropitious to the growth of intellect, as we generally suppose. The facilities of improvement which they furnish, differ from those of an old country, more in kind, than degree. In new countries, the empire of prejudice is comparatively insignificant; and the mind, not depressed by the dogmas of licensed authority, nor fettered by the chains of inexorable customs, is left free to expand, according to its original constitution. But the sources of information are fewer, than in old countries; and in balancing between the exemptions of one and the advantages of the other, it must be acknowledged that the latter has a great ascendancy. New countries, however, possess some positive and *peculiar* aids to the developement of understanding. Of these, the principal are to be found in the composition of their society. St. Pierre, in the preamble to his *Arcadia*, has made a beautiful allusion to this, when depicting an imaginary community of immigrants, assembled on the river of the Amazons.

"They abjured (says he) the national prejudices which had rendered them, from infancy, the enemies of other men; and especially that which is the source of all the animosities of the human race, and which Europe instils with the mother's milk into each of her sons, the desire of being foremost. They adopted, under the immediate protection of the Author of Nature, the principles of universal toleration; and by that act of general justice, they fell back without interruption into the unconstrained exercise of their particular character. The Dutchman there pursued agriculture and commerce into the very bosom of the morasses; the

Swiss, up to the very summit of the rocks; and the Russians, dexterous in managing the hatchet, into the centre of the thickest forests. The Englishman there addicted himself to navigation, and to the useful arts, which constitute the strength of states; the Italian, to the liberal arts, which raise them to a flourishing condition; the Prussian, to military exercises; the Poles, to those of horsemanship; the reserved Spaniard, to the talents which require firmness; the Frenchman, to those which render life agreeable, and to the social instinct which qualifies him to be the bond of union among all nations. All these men, of opinions so very different, enjoyed, through the medium of toleration and internal communication, every thing that was best in their several characters, and tempered the defects of one by the redundancies of another. Thence resulted from education, from laws, and from habits, a combination of arts, of talents, of virtues, and of religious principles, which formed of the whole but one single people, disposed to exist internally in the most perfect harmony, to resist every external invader, and to amalgamate with all the rest of the human race."

A state of society analogous to this is actually presented by Ohio. In no country of the same age and numbers, do the immigrants exhibit more diversity. The sister states, from Georgia to Maine, the Canadas and West-Indies, the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the empires of Europe, from the shores of the Baltic to the Mediterranean, have contributed to increase and variegate our population. With the currents of emigration from those countries, have flown into this, many peculiar customs, manners and sentiments, which furnish the elements of a new national character, and display, if not the works of each, at least the principles on which they were designed and executed. A society, thus compounded, has *within itself* no indifferent substitute for travelling; and exhibits, in the lapse of time, what belongs naturally to change of place.

(To be continued.)

LAW REPORTS.

CRIM. CON.

Sheriff's Court, Bedford-Street, December 10, 1814.*

The Earl of Roseberry, v. Sir H. Mildmay.

WE do not select this cause as a celebrated law decision, but as a celebrated record of high-born depravity. Not, again, because it is a crim. con. action; for, adultery is too fashionably prevalent, to give it importance as a vice: but, because this cause is strongly marked with more than ordinary atrocity. The adulteress was sister to the defendant's lately deceased wife.

The plaintiff, a nobleman of ancient creation, in the northern part of the kingdom, married, in the year 1808, the eldest daughter of the honorable B. Bouverie, a lady of the most exquisite beauty and accomplishments, and scarcely in her eighteenth year.

My Lord and Lady Roseberry lived together in perfect harmony. Their union was blessed with four children—two sons and two daughters; and her ladyship's conduct was that of an exemplary wife and mother, until seduced from the paths of rectitude by Sir Henry Mildmay.

It would appear, that their relationship by marriage, by uniting the two families in the strictest bonds of friendship, had peculiar-

* Judgment for the Plaintiff, £15,000. The following extract from an English paper, will tell something more of the tale of the fugitive pair.

"THE COUNTESS OF ROSEBERRY.—This Lady adjourned to the Old Ship tavern in Brighton, three days previous to her departure, with Sir H. Mildmay, for the Continent. Her Ladyship came from London in a carriage and four, by the route of Horsham and Steyning, and during her stay at the above inn, observed the utmost seclusion. The Countess had two female attendants with her, who styled her "my lady," but in other respects she was perfectly *incog*. Sir H. Mildmay arrived on the third day in a post chaise and four, and was known at the tavern only as Mr. St. John.—On the following day the whole party set off for Newhaven, and took their passage on board the Wellington packet for Dieppe.—In stature the Countess is rather below the middle size; and in form, graceful and elegant. Her features, though overshadowed with a pale and thoughtful cast, appeared extremely beautiful. Sir H. Mildmay is stated to be handsome in person, and of a generous and improvident spirit. He is embarrassed in circumstances, but it is thought that a few years of restricted expenditure, would fully reinstate him in point of fortune, notwithstanding the amount of damages in which he stands convicted, as his estates in Hampshire are extensive. The Countess and her seducer have taken up their residence in France. In the event of their marriage, their offspring cannot succeed to any entailed property; not even to the estates of Sir Henry, (supposing the death of his son by his first marriage) as by the recent decision of the Court of King's Bench, the espousal of a sister of the first wife is declared contrary to the civil as well as canonical law. A report reached town last week, that the Countess had been taken out of a river in a drowning state, but whether her immersion was designed or accidental, is not stated."

ly given, to Sir Henry and to Lady Roseberry, those opportunities, which they, so fatally, employed to the destruction of their own honor, and the eternal peace of mind of the too confiding, honorable, Lord Roseberry.

Public curiosity has been so much excited by this discovery, that we should deem it intrusive to enter into a minutiae of detail. Suffice it to say, that Lady Roseberry, now only twenty-four years of age, had not been educated according to the fashionable system of voluptuous accomplishment, but was reared by a father, more distinguishable for the possession of every virtue, than can elevate and adorn human nature, than for his high descent. Sir Henry is not more than twenty-seven years of age, and made his visits through the window to the lady's bed-chamber, where he was, eventually, detected by Mr. Primrose, in the garb of a common sailor, with his beard unshaven. In this base disguise, he was dismissed by the way he had entered.

On the defence, Mr. Brougham, with great eloquence, deplored the melancholy event which occupied the attention of the court, forbearing to glance the slightest imputation on the truly honorable character of my Lord Roseberry. The letters that passed between the guilty persons were not only romantic, but were amorous beyond the bounds of delicacy. The disgraced pair now cohabit in France.

From this brief statement, we will draw a few reflexions on adultery. It is a crime, which in its commission, displays a variety of shades. Some *well bred* husbands will not see the vices of their wives; and, notwithstanding the infamy is notorious, that my lady entertains her cecisbéo; and, that my lord keeps his Opera dancer; yet, the fashionable world is not so prudish as to brand the wife with dishonor, when the husband appears to approve her conduct. This is the *delicacy* of refined principles, and an irrefragable proof of highly polished manners.

These accommodating *hautontiaques* do not interfere with each other's pleasures. They politely live together in the same house, eat at the same table, and are patterns of conjugal felicity!

"Nothing," says Joseph Surface, "makes a lady so indifferent to the opinions of others, as a consciousness of virtue." One little faux-pas, on the other hand, will make her so sensitive in appearances, that her amours, often, continue unexposed to her family. But as repeated security will, sometimes, lull caution to a momentary sleep; and, notwithstanding detection follow, what is the result? One species of man of honor resorts to the courts,

and receives his damages, in full compensation for a worthless wife. It is a nine days wonder ! If a duel be the consequence, no matter, the recollection is soon lost in some other novelty.

A divorce obtained, sometimes the guilty parties intermarry—the adultress is made an honest woman ;—she is restored to society. What, if a lady desert a young family of beautiful children !—will her second marriage lull to peace the pangs of outraged nature ? Yes—ambition will calm these uninvited whisperings, when her infamy has elevated her to the rank of a Countess ; and, still more so, when it creates her a Duchess. On the passing of the divorce bill, the adultress goes to church—not in the penance of a white sheet ; but, in the magnificence of a French lace robe, attended by *bride maids*, displaying like herself the emblems of purity around their outward persons.

That a Countess, or a Duchess, may chance to feel the sting of these remarks, we do deplore—but example does not originate in us ; we borrow it from others.

From these right honorable sinners, we will turn to another species of husband : previously, however, let us consider marriage, both as a divine and human institution.

Marriage, the sacred ordinance of the Almighty, is a covenant, pledged at the altar, by which the human race is increased and multiplied, and the casualties and infirmities of humanity are soothed by the endearing ties of reciprocal affection. In its civil acceptation, it is the bond of society. It is a moral union of the sexes, by which domestic felicity is insured, and worldly wealth is handed down, uninterruptedly, to posterity.

In civilized states, it is the reward of virtuous love, and gives a chastened rapture to purified desire. With the softer sex, it unfolds the noblest energies of the human mind, in the progressive duties of daughter, wife, and mother. To man, it is the cheering solace of his labors. His avocations in an active profession fulfilled, the fatigues of the day are forgotten in the charms of his domestic fire side. His wife is his treasure—his children his joy. They form a family compact within themselves, in which each has an allotted part. The harmony thus preserved is beautiful. Reared in virtuous principles, they feel their dependence on their Maker. Religion mingles with their enjoyments. In prosperity they are grateful for the blessings they possess. In adversity they are resigned, and bow, with patient fortitude, before the chastening hand of providence.

In barbarian societies marriage, still, preserves its virtuous attributes. It represses illicit appetite ; it calls forth parental affection ; and, it goads even the indolent to make provision for their offspring.

All this, however, is rather the INSTITUTION than the RESULT of marriage. In proportion as civilization refines, licentiousness increases in a polished state. The occupations, amusements, studies, and accomplishments, of the fashionable world, teem with dormant provocations to inflame highly educated sensibility. Learning, the arts, the sciences, all, have their share in vitiating the heart. Indeed, some of the brightest ornaments of our literary schools, disseminate concealed poison throughout the most brilliant efforts of the human understanding. Pope is celebrated for his *Eloise to Abelard* ; Voltaire for his *Pucelle d'Orléans* ; Rousseau for his *Nouvelle Eloise* ; Goëthe for his *Werther*—these, and many others we could name, seduce the mind, by leading the heated imagination to forbidden indulgences. The arts and sciences unveil the mysteries of nature ; and, the fashionable accomplishments and dress of the day remove whatever little barrier may be left for the protection of native modesty.

Hence it is, that marriages become a hateful bond. Voluptuousness lights her torch at the shrine of Hymen ; but when satiety succeeds, the roving heart pursues a new enjoyment. And, when an honorable husband, too late, discovers, that he has given his affections, and linked his fate with a woman, mentally depraved, although corporeally virtuous, how shall his high-minded sense of honor provide for the continuance of that unstable chastity ? It is an agonizing doubt, and the best concerted precautions are feeble instruments of safety. If he protect his wife by being the constant companion of her pleasures, he is ridiculed as a jealous monster—if he leave her to solitary pursuits, and temptation follow, he is censured as a conniving husband. What a task has he to undertake ! He must protect the wife, whose beauty has enamoured him—whose accomplishments enslave him—whose virtuous wishes are his primary law. She is the mother of his adored children. Yet, does she stand upon a precipice, from which her own frailty, and the villany of others may, alas ! too soon, hurl her to perdition. What step shall he pursue to avert this evil ?

To-day his heart bounds in the fulness of his felicity. He possesses a jewel, compared with which, the treasures of the east would lose their lustre. To-morrow, the seducer comes, and

with him all the imps of mental torment. The estrangement of his wife's affections becomes too obvious to be misconceived. She receives his tenderest cares with coldness—his chastened endearments with disgust : his honor is blasted—his happiness is wrecked—his home is his dungeon—his former bliss becomes his present bane. His heart shuts itself up, in solitude and withers—he dies a living death !

Perhaps he may appeal to the law—alas ! what relief can that afford him ! Will it pour balm into his afflicted bosom ? Will it heal his wounded honor ? No !—he cannot estimate his loss by arithmetic, or state the sum total of his miseries by the cold rules of calculation. He scorns so base a compromise ; and, hurries from the court, with contempt written on his brow, and indignation boiling in his heart.

Now, let us pursue the weaker criminal awhile. Immorality, we will presume, has not assumed a sovereignty over conscience. In a moment of delirium, she sunk, unconsciously, into the arms of a villain. Her mind did not consent ; but her passions controuled her better judgment—passions, not the native inhabitants of her constitution ; but passions, artificially created, by an indulgence in fashionable customs. What is to be expected from the prudence of a girl, just bursting upon the world, in the delicious bloom of sixteen. Maturing Lummus, who, from the dangerous impressions of her private studies, repairs, in all the vanities of revealed beauty, to the fascinations of the ball room. There, she waltzes with an elegant youth ; and, as she repeats the mazy round, her whirling head, and wildly throbbing bosom, unconsciously resign her almost naked person to the fervent embrace of her too dangerous partner. They are so united by the dance, that he almost inhales the voluptuous languor issuing, in broken sighs, from her delicious lips ; the pressure of his surrounding arms communicates infection ; and, she retires, from the delights of the evening, full of new, but imperative wishes.

What can be expected from such a system of education ? What, but the fate of the beautiful and accomplished Lady Roseberry, although, as we have stated, her ladyship has not this plea for her frailty.

Now, to the catastrophe. The guilty hour of rapture flown, the veil of delusion drops. The unhappy culprit begins to think of her husband. She ponders on his faithful attachment—his smiles of love—his anticipation of her wishes—his watchful tenderness of her slightest indisposition—his animated joy at her re-

covery. She dwells on her little innocent, forsaken, children. Never—never—will she see them more. They advance, in her imagination, to womanhood. They are orphans; for the infamy of their mother hurried their father to a premature grave!

Maddening vision! shall she implore her husband's forgiveness? Impossible!—Shame forbids the rash attempt. Well, then, she is firmly linked to eternal disgrace. The arms of her paramour are her only protection from the bitter scorn of an unfeeling world. We will pursue the picture no longer. Jane Shore, now, stands before us in the last agonies of life, and we tremble at our own reflections.

Lastly, to the seducer. In what language, shall we pourtray his crime? In this world, the glittering illusions of fashion, may preserve him from the horrors of habitual despair; but, at that thrice dreadful hour, when the soul is about to quit its mortal tenement, and to appear before an all just God, where are his hopes?

Let us not be censured as the stern reviewers of fashionable* morality; for, in this our lesson, we are the friends of the rising generation. May our admonition be impressive!

* Consult Gibbon, vol. VIII. p. 57 to 70. Jacob's Law Dictionary, Art. Adultery. Blackstone's Commentaries, vol. IV. Pp. 64, 65, 191. Sale's Koran, vol. I. Pp. 55, 56, 90, 91, 93, 129.

LOMOND'S ISLE.

A SCOTCH TALE.

SOON blew the gale on Lomond's tide
While Duncan steer'd his blooming bride,
As on the waving helm reclin'd
She gave her loose locks to the wind;
And smil'd to see the lucid stream
Catch from her eye another gleam.

"Now urge the boat—the tide is slow—
Yon envious larches hide our foe;
His oars are swift—his sails are wide—
He skims beneath yon mountain's side:
Ah! now his bugle's note I hear—
His plume—his milk-white plume is near!
Haste, or a cruel kinsman's pow'r
Will close in blood our bridal hour!"

"Nay, Mona, shew thy beauty's light,
And cheer with smiles thy faithful knight:
'Tis but the milk-white solan laves
His clashing pinion in the waves;

'Tis but a distant goatherd's bell
 Wakes echo in the winding dell.
 Yon isle whose cluster'd willows lean
 So lowly o'er their mirror green,
 Shall yield us in its silent breast
 A haven of untroubled rest.

Amid the rocks which round it rise
 Like giant guards of paradise,
 The chapel's holy relics still
 Shall flying lovers guard from ill.

"Believe my faith! our humble pray'r
 May win a richer blessing there
 Than list'ning angels ever lent
 To vows on golden altars spent:--
 And he whose hallow'd hand shall twine
 Our plighted hearts in bonds divine,
 Bears in his brow no wintry frown
 To wither rosy Pleasure's crown.—
 O fear him not!....tho' years of care
 Have blanch'd his cheek and thin'd his hair,
 Yet well my noble Brother loves
 To bless the heart which Beauty moves;
 For once he fondly hop'd to trace
 A smile like thine in Beauty's face.—
 Perhaps o'er love's deluded trust,
 Perhaps o'er friendship laid in dust,
 He mourns;—for oft with hollow eye
 He gazes on the fading sky;
 Or prints, with slow and palsied hand,
 An image on the silver sand:
 But, dearest, soon thy bright eye's beam
 Shall cheer his clouded fancy's dream,
 And teach him on yon mould'ring shore
 To gaze on lifeless shapes no more."

The lover ceas'd—with bolder stroke
 His oar the sparkling crystal broke,
 While brighter than the current's brim
 Soft Fancy's mirror shone for him.
 Starts Mona now?—'tis but the surge
 Moans on the rocky rampart's verge,
 As safe beneath the islet's side
 Led by the waning moon they glide:—
 Now, Lady, trust thy pilot's hand,
 The bounding boat has touch'd the strand!

Such tints her ice-cold cheek adorn
 As steal upon the frozen morn;
 Such tints as best in Beauty's cheek
 Tell of the doubt that dares not speak.

"Why shrinks my love?—yon torch's ray
Is near to gild our level way :
The pastor of the sacred isle
Awaits us with a brother's smile.
See, from his ivied casement's height
The blazing beacon lends us light !
The faggot, dear to midnight mirth,
Burns cheerly on his social hearth,
And from his heart—tho' cold it seems,
The richest balm of kindness streams,
As Nature's frolic pencil shews
In frozen spar its rainbow hues ;
Or as old Neva's rock retains
A thousand rubies in its veins.—
He comes !—thy smile will sweeter prove.
Blest by a gentle brother's love :
Our joy will fairer blossoms give
If Arthur sees and bids them live !"

She sighs—but now the sigh is past !
The guiding torch approaches fast :
The Priest of Lomond's lonely isle
Comes with a guardian-brother's smile—
A lover's hand has half withdrawn
From Mona's cheek the shading lawn
And half-reveal'd its rosy glow,
And half her bending neck of snow.
But why is Arthur's form unseen
Beneath his sable mantle's screen,
As o'er their path, with palsied hand
He waves his half-extinguish'd brand ?—
The pressure of that hand might spread
The icy dew which damps the dead !
O'er his pale cheek and hollow eye
Loose locks their ebon shade supply—
A glance she dares not look upon
Is there—it glistens, and is gone !
So mute, so wan, the shrouded ghost
Stalks on a drear and deathful coast !
Now from the chapel's sainted ground
His footsteps call a boding sound—
The mould'ring aisle is dim and damp,
Scarce burns the lone funereal lamp—
It brightens now with lurid glare
While Arthur breathes the nuptial pray'r.
His task is done—the sable veil
Falls from his visage stern and pale—

"Depart !—thy far sought prize possess—
Thou could'st not see and love her less !

Thou knew'st not in how dire a chain
 Thy brother liv'd and lov'd in vain!
 I thought——'twas but a dream of heav'n!
 That Mona's faith to me was given;
 But I will slumber now, and dream
 That her's to thee may faithful seem.
 I give thee at this holy shrine
 The wand'ring heart which once was mine!
 It is not rage which burns my brow—
 It is not grief—I scorn them now!
 But bear her farther from my soul
 Than yonder flames that mock the pole!
 Away!—thy guilty Syren hide—
 Thy ruin'd brother's faithless bride—
 Away! lest in his burning brain
 No trace of nature's law remain!"

Hears Mona yet?—her mantle's fold
 Is still in gasping Duncan's hold:
 But she is gone—already now
 She trembles on the loose rock's brow,
 While Duncan, dumb, with glaring eye
 Sees but the glance that bids him die.
 'Tis Arthur starts—'tis Arthur calls
 As in the whelming wave she falls—
 "Turn, Mona, to a brother's breast!
 Return, sweet Mona, and be blest!"
 He flies—her floating veil is there,
 Her tresses quiver still in air:
 He plunges in the watry bed,
 And grasps the raiment of the dead.

* * * * *

The pang is past—O'er Mona's woes
 Unvex'd, the silent waters close:
 On Lomond's isle the chapel grey
 Still tells of Duncan's bridal day,
 And still along that lonely shore
 The stranger sees a hermit hoar
 Who gazes on the watry glass
 And bids a long-lov'd image pass:—
 But Duncan's eye no record shows
 Of blighted love or cherish'd woes;
 He shuns the dim and silent hour,
 And talks of peace in Wisdom's bow'r;
 But when the purple bowl he fills
 While mirth resounds and Music trills,
 He sees in Lomond's glassy tide
 A ruin'd Brother's buried Bride.

* * * * *

ALSO AND LIKEWISE.

A COUNSEL once, of talents vain,
A Quaker rudely treated,
Who often in his story plain
The word, *Also*, repeated.

"Also," said Brief, with sneering wit,
"Wont *Likewise* do as well?"

"No, friend; but, if thou'lt permit,
"Their differences I will tell."

"Erskine's a counsel learned we know,

"Whose talents oft surprise,—

"Thou art a counsel friend *Also*;

"But surely not *Like-wise*!"

A TOUR THROUGH FRANCE.

A Letter from a Lady to her Cousin in London, in 1814.

Paris.

MY DEAR HARRIETT,

THERE are scenes which leave so deep an impression on the mind and heart, and which furnish so many subjects of serious reflection, that it is difficult for the most volatile disposition to shake off their effects: such have been their influence on the spirits of your gay Emily, from her visit to Versailles, that notwithstanding the whirl of novel amusements that I have been engaged in, and which had dissipated my recollections for a short time, yet I feel the *penseroso* sensibly predominate, as I call to mind this splendid and once highly favoured situation,—the scene of prosperous majesty, elegance, and taste,—the contrast of misfortune, and the pomp of usurpation.

With propitious weather, and buoyant with all those spirits which health and affluence can bestow, we set off last Monday, to view the favorite palace of the unfortunate Marie Antoinette.

The road from Paris to Versailles is delightful, and the elegant houses along the banks of the Seine, form a picturesque and beautiful appearance: a gloom, however, insensibly stole over our minds as we approached the royal residence, the grandeur of which seems departed.

My dear uncle, at parting, cautioned me against travelling in vain; and on my assuring him I should observe every thing curious and worthy of remark, he explained himself by saying, that was not quite sufficient, unless I made myself mistress of some

historical events. Know then, dear uncle, that I studied the history of this palace before I went to view it. The land on which it is erected, was purchased by Louis XII. of John de Soissy, in 1627 ; but Louis XIV. was the founder of this admirable piece of architecture, who commenced the work in 1673, and the buildings were completed during the ministry of the great Colbert, in 1680.

The gardens were laid out by the famous Le Nostre, and the exquisite paintings in the Chateau, are by Le Brun. The outside view of the palace, from the North Terrace, is extremely grand and imposing ; four fine bronze figures are represented leaning against the front of the building, Silenus, Antinous, the Pythian Apollo, and Bacchus. In entering the saloon of Hercules, the spectator is struck dumb with admiration : it is sixty-four feet in length, and fifty-four broad ; the ceiling is a fine representation of Olympus, with the apotheosis and labors of Hercules : that little statue of Cupid, of which we have been told so much, and which formerly stood in the pavillion of Love in Le Petit Trianon, is now transferred to this saloon, where it is placed in the centre.

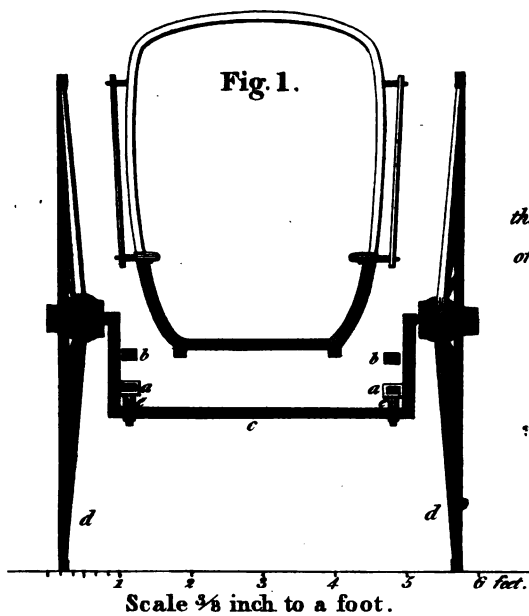
The second apartment is the Hall of Plenty, adorned with appropriate emblems, and fine paintings ; next is the Hall of Diana, the fourth of Mars, the fifth of Mercury, adorned with a profusion of pictures ; and the Hall of Apollo is next, where, on the ceiling, that God is seen, seated in his car, and adorned with all his attributes. The next is the Saloon of War, with an equestrian statue of Mars, twelve feet high ; but as the God was made to represent that monarch, Louis XV. who was any thing but a warrior, the people, during the rage of freedom, thought proper to leave the God without a head.

In our progress through the interior of the palace, every thing appeared to remind us of the instability of earthly grandeur ; the painted ceilings are faded, the tapestry in many places torn, and the golden cornices discoloured ; we looked, with many a mingled reflection of regret and indignation, at the wing which the soldiers occupied, during the turbulent scenes of the revolution ; nor was it with less, though with a different kind of sensation, we beheld the upper tower, where Francis I. drew his last breath.

(To be continued.)



Fig. 1.



**A Vertical
Section;
through the centre
of the Axle, wheels
and body.**

a.a. Cradle-springs.

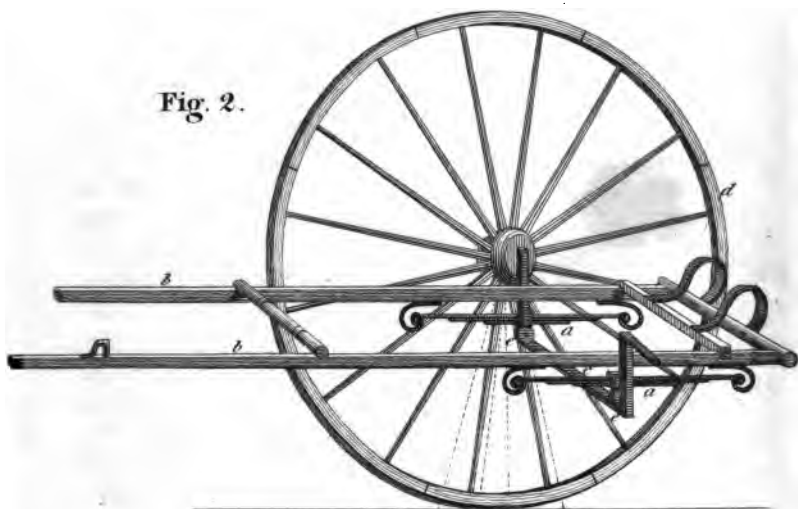
b.b. Shafts.

c. Axle.

d.d. Wheels.

e.e. Joints.

Fig. 2.



Perspective view: the left wheel taken off.

MECHANIC ARTS.

The Editor solicits the indulgence of his readers, for the following notice of an invention of his own. It would have given place to any other, had any one been offered in season for accompanying it with the necessary engraving—and ever hereafter, other men shall have priority in the articles that may be offered for this department.

The following extracts from a pamphlet, lately published, and which are, perhaps, too prolix for this work, will, with the plate annexed, explain the principles of this invention, and enable the public to decide pretty well on its merits.

Cursory observations on the ordinary construction of WHEEL-CARRIAGES: with an attempt to point out their defects, and to show how they may be improved.

REASON, science, and philosophy, having long since taught every body that high wheels for carriages move much easier than low ones, the fact, as it will not be questioned, needs no examination here. That it is so is beyond doubt. Various attempts have been made to avail ourselves of the advantage of considerably higher wheels; and we accordingly see that, wherever it can be done without a counterbalancing inconvenience, wheels of a greater height are substituted for the lower ones of former times. If still higher ones than we now see have not been used, it is solely because no plan has been devised to remedy the inconvenience of too high a line of draught for the horse, and the increased height of the load or body of the carriage. For it is also as generally believed that the line of draught should be, what may be termed a lifting-line; that is, that the horse's breast should be rather higher than the level of the line of draught. This is undoubtedly correct, and I believe there ought, for his ease, and to enable him to exert his full power, to be a greater difference than there commonly is in practice: this however, would require the wheels to be still smaller. To all these difficulties and objections to the use of high wheels, we may add another, and that of commanding influence in the construction of pleasure, and other carriages designed for rapid motion. That as we extend the height of the wheels, we increase the exposure to upsetting, and the danger attending it: For as the higher the wheel, the longer is the lever on which its motion acts; and as the axle, on which the load rests is necessarily in the centre of the wheel, it is evident that the higher the wheel the greater is the liability to upset.

Such, I believe, are the reasons why the wheels of carriages ought, for the ease of the horse and for the ease of the rider, to

be made much higher than those in common use ; and such the objections to any increase of height. Perhaps it may be admitted with propriety, that the height of wheels now employed, is about that medium which best combines every practicable advantage with the fewest disadvantages. But, when I say this, I mean to be understood as saying it of the present mode of constructing wheel-carriages with straight axles, which necessarily raise the load above the centre of the wheels.

Suppose it practicable to increase the height of the wheels of a Chaise, for instance, to any desirable extent, and that not only without any inconvenience to the draught, or the height of the load, but with an actual advantage from the manner of appending it. This would readily be pronounced the grand desideratum, while, as it never has been done, it would, perhaps, as readily be pronounced impossible.

(To be continued.)

The following Presentment of the Grand Jury, of the City and County of New-York, well merits the serious attention of the friends of morality and religion. Many of the evils which it points out, are as extensive as the State, and pervade every quarter, in some degree. What effect would it have if the grand Inquest of other counties, should inquire, on their oaths, for similar evils?

City and county of New-York.

COURT OF SESSIONS—MAY TERM.—1815.

THE PEOPLE.

The jurors of the people of the state of New-York, in and for the body of the city and county of New-York, having gone through the usual business for which they were summoned by this court, cannot leave their places until they have called the attention of the court to a few cases of grievance and public nuisance, as calling aloud for legislative interference, if the arm of the law and the numerous ordinances of the corporation of the city are not found sufficiently strong to check the evils of which they complain.

On their oaths, they present, as a public nuisance, the unbounded licentiousness of the black and colored women of this city, who are living in a state of debauchery and idleness—strolling about our public walks and principal streets at all hours after sunset—using obscene and infamous language, to the great shame of our city, and the example of others—offending the ears of every decent person, by the repetition of profane oaths and vulgar epithets—

and more especially on the sabbath evenings, crowding and jostling against the peaceable citizens of this city, to the great injury of the people of this state, their peace and dignity.

The jurors, aforesaid, need not to remind the court, that the major part of the offences on your calendar, and calling for your daily judgment, originate from those vagrant and licentious women, who not only have their haunts of assignations with their own color, but who, we believe, are the vile instruments of seduction and ruin to many of the youths and unfortunate white females that are so frequently arraigned before your tribunal.

They likewise present, in their character of jurors aforesaid, and under their oath, as a public nuisance, the growing and incalculable evil of those numerous and multiplied TRIFLING SHOPS, and petty groceries, who, under the *100 feet* sanction of our laws, obtain a license to vend liquor, and a few articles of necessity, to the poor, at exorbitant prices, and frequently of a degenerate quality, and do shamefully abuse the freedom granted, by keeping open their shops, not only each working day, but all hours at night, and, in many cases, on the day set apart by our religion and laws to be observed as a day of rest, free from traffic as from labor—thereby harboring and encouraging the drunkard in his drunkenness, and enticing the idle and the vicious to spend their time and money, to the great injury of their families, and against the peace and dignity of the people of this state.

The jurors aforesaid, for the city and county aforesaid, do further present, as a nuisance, the rude and disorderly behaviour of the coachmen, or hack drivers, now allowed to stand at the places assigned by the Corporation, who are constantly in the habit of leaving their horses without reins, snapping their whips, crying aloud to peaceable citizens, and assaulting each other, to the great danger and disturbance of the good people of this state.

PETER A. SCHENOK, Foreman.

THE BOUNDARY LINE,

Which is to be settled by Commissioners, between the United States and Canada agreeably to the late Treaty, has excited a good deal of controversy among the Newspaper Mathematicians of the south—and a degree of interest in the public mind fully equal to the magnitude and importance of the subject. Whatever may be the difficulty of determining the true point of lat. 45°, or of tracing the parallel of that line, in the minds of those who have been writing about it, I apprehend no great difficulty in this

matter will be found by the Commissioners. At the same time I take it upon me to say that the late supposed boundary is incorrect by several miles : and that, at least, one of the late commissioners was aware of this at the time of running that line. Nations, in respect to boundaries, too often conduct like those individuals who leave the final settlement of their land-marks, till the land becomes worth contending about : and when instead of miles, they sustain a furious controversy for inches !

LAKE GEORGE,

A view of which is given in this number, is in the northern part of the state of New-York, principally in the counties of Warren and Washington, from sixty-two to near one hundred miles north of Albany. It is about thirty-three miles in length, and from two to near four miles in width, and discharges northward into Lake Champlain at Ticonderoga. The water of this lake is remarkably pure, and it abounds with a variety of very fine fish for the angler. Trout, and salmon trout, of a large size, are taken in abundance, with many other kinds of fish. The country around this lake is very romantic, and the mountains that border it are some of the highest in this state. The View embraces the ruins of Fort George, (at the south end of the lake,) the remains of some of its old military houses, the village of Caldwell, and of the lake, for a distance of about fourteen miles. Strangers, who visit the watering places of Saratoga county, are well paid for their trouble by extending their ride by Glen's Falls on the Hudson, to Lake George.

Note. A friend, for whose judgment, on most occasions, I have the highest regard, happening to cast his eye on the above article, insists on my taking occasion to refer my readers to the *Gazetteer of New-York* for a more full account of the Lake, &c. 'and let one thing help another,' in the true spirit of trade. From his judgment I appeal, and submit the matter to the public.

ED.

Method of Manufacturing Horn in China, as a Substitute for Glass.

THE horn generally manufactured by the Chinese is from the horns of sheep and goats, and is considered as a good substitute for glass. The usual method of managing them is, to bend them by immersion in boiling hot water, after which they are cut open and flattened ; they then easily scale, or are separated into two or three thin laminæ, or plates. In order that these plates should be made to join, they are exposed to the penetrating effect of

steam, by which they are rendered perfectly soft. By applying the edges immediately to each other, and pressing them, they instantly adhere, and form one substance. It is a contrivance little known elsewhere but in China.

FOREIGN EVENTS.

Letter from the Emperor of France, to the Sovereigns.

SIR, MY BROTHER,

During the last month, you will have learned my return to the shores of France, my entry into Paris, and the departure of the Bourbon family—the true cause of these events ought also to be understood by your majesty. They are the works of an irresistible power; the works of the unanimous will of a great nation, that knows its duties and its rights. The dynasty which power gave to the French people, was not calculated for them—the Bourbons would neither adopt their sentiments nor their manners—it became necessary that France should be freed from them—her voice called for a deliverer; the expectations which had resolved me to the greatest sacrifices, had been frustrated. I am come—and from the point where I touched the shore, the love of my people has borne me even to the bosom of my capital. The first wish of my heart is to repay so much affection, by preserving an honorable state of peace. The re-establishment of the Imperial throne was necessary to the happiness of the French; my greatest desire is at the same time to render it useful in securing the repose of Europe. Sufficient glory has by turns adorned the banners of the different nations—the vicissitude of things has also caused the greatest misfortune to follow the greatest success. The finest arena is now opened to the sovereigns, and I am the first to descend into it. After exhibiting to the world the drama of great battles, it will be better to know no other rivalry than the benefits of peace—no other strife than the sacred strife for the benefit of mankind. France is pleased to proclaim with candor this noble end of all her wishes. Jealous of her independence, the immutable principle of her politics shall be the most absolute respect for the independence of other nations. If these are, as I feel well assured, the personal sentiments of your majesty, general repose is secure for a long time; and justice, made the barrier of the different powers, will be sufficient to secure the frontiers.

I avail myself with eagerness, &c.

Paris, April 4, 1815.

NAPOLÉON.

PROCLAMATION OF LOUIS XVIII.

Frankfort, April 2.

Louis, by the grace of God, king of France and Navarre, to those of my children who shall see these presents, greeting.

He who has deceived you for ten years is come to deceive you again. Fifteen days have hardly passed by, since by treason he seated himself upon the throne to which your wishes have called me, and already Europe knows it, and Europe indignant, advances to annihilate him! She advances, Frenchmen! Her innumerable phalanxes will speedily pass our frontiers; but Europe, is not your enemy. I have reconciled her to you. Henceforth you will only see in these strangers, formerly so terrible, generous allies, who come to aid you in throwing off the yoke of oppression. All these soldiers of Europe march under the same flag, and that is the white one.

Enfeebled by age and twenty-five years of misfortunes, I will not say unto them, like my grand father: *rally under my white plume!* but I will follow them near to the field of honor. Frenchmen! a vain illusion of glory spread among you, has carried you away: my arms are open to you, come cast yourselves into them. I will believe you never quitted them. Frenchmen! who is he among you who will bear arms against me! I am not your

Foreign Events.

enemy, I am your brother of Louis XVI. I come like Henry IV. to fight and conquer a new league; I come to bring you peace and honor.

(Signed)

LOUIS.
The Duke of Feltre, Minister of War.

Paris, April 15.

Nothing demonstrates more the indefinite liberty of the press and the power of the imperial government, than what we read in the public papers. The proclamations of Louis XVIII. are ~~the~~ the decisions of the emperor, often without comment, without reflection, but these proclamations resemble the effeminate and impotent efforts of the aged Priam—they produce no effect. In permitting their publication, the emperor proves that he is above all fear, and that he has a just confidence in the French people, who have freely chosen him, and who wish him only for a sovereign. Those who persuade the Count de Lille to print these proclamations, and who do not apprise him of the ridiculousness of comparing himself without ceasing to Henry IV. understand his interests very little. In fact, what resemblance can there be between Henry IV. who spent his life in combating within and without the enemies of his country, and Louis XVIII. who, from the treaty of Pilnitz to this moment has been always seeking to excite them against her.

A Decree of the emperor Napoleon dated 28th March last, inserted in the *Moniteur* of the 9th of this month, recalls to their flags all the officers and soldiers who have quitted the army for whatever reason, under the solemn promise that *as soon as actual peace shall be confirmed, those who shall have rejoined the army in consequence of the decree, shall obtain leave to return to their families.* The minister of general police, Fouché, duke of Otranto, in announcing this decree to the prefect, says, "We are at peace, the Emperor has solemnly proclaimed his intention to maintain the treaty of Paris." What then is the object of those hostile preparations beyond our frontiers? When it is our determination to take no concern in the interior arrangements of neighboring states, will those states pretend to the right of directing our domestic affairs? Is it because they are determined to govern France, by menaces, by arms, and by masters of their choice?

"And what kings, what nations can perceive, without terror, such an unheard of violation of independence and the principles which form the safety of all nations and all governments! What people, if they are not beaten down by a long servitude, can consent to receive a monarch from the hands of strangers? Our fathers have seen the Stuarts fatiguing the pity of the courts of Europe, and shamefully begging their aid. They saw England set at defiance the menaces and the arms of the continent, and escape by this last act of courage from civil troubles, from the poniards of a tyrannical hypocrite, and terminate a revolution which had, like ours, its extravagances, its errors, and the want of a new dynasty.

"Shall France be more unfortunate? Shall a humiliation, of which we do not find an example in the history of any free people, be reserved for her? Shall she suffer any to dictate laws to her, when she has the right and the power of rejecting every species of yoke? When 300,000 warriors, experienced in battle, and 2,000,000 of citizens, are ready to march at the voice of the country? No! The throne to which the wishes of four millions of men have called the Emperor, this throne, strengthened by so many treaties, made illustrious by so many sacrifices, consecrated by religion, can never become the prey of conquerors.

"The projects conceived at the first moment of alarm, and in the uncertainty of events, will not be brought to any result, and will have no success, when Europe shall learn that the Bourbons can receive no other succor than that of hospitality; when she shall know that France, finishing, within the circle of her acknowledged limits, under the faith of treaties and the protection of the law of nations, the grand work of her revolution, shows herself unanimous in the generous design of resisting oppression and repulsing unjust aggressions." (Signed)

The Duke of OTRANTO,
Minister of the General Police.

STATE PAPER.

NEW TREATY OF THE ALLIED POWERS.

In the name of the holy and undivided Trinity :

THEIR majesties, the Emperor of all the Russias, the Emperor of Austria, the King of Prussia, and the King of the united kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, considering the consequences which the entrance of Bonaparte into France, and the present situation of that kingdom, may have with respect to the security of Europe, have determined, in these weighty circumstances, to carry into effect the principles consecrated in the treaty of Chaumont. They have therefore agreed, by a solemn treaty, mutually signed by each of the four powers, to renew the engagement that they will defend the so happily restored order of things in Europe, against all violation, and to adopt the most effectual measures for carrying this engagement into effect, and also to give it that necessary extension which existing circumstances imperiously demand.

[Here follow the appointments, in the usual form, of the different plenipotentiaries, whose names are undersigned.]

Art. 1.—The high contracting powers solemnly engage to unite the resources of their respective states for the maintenance of the treaty of peace concluded at Paris on the 30th of May, 1814, as well as that of the Congress of Vienna—to carry into full effect the dispositions contained in these treaties—inviolably to observe their ratified and subscribed agreements, according to their full import—to defend them against every attack, and especially against the projects of Napoleon Bonaparte. Towards this end, they bind themselves, should the king of France desire it, and in the spirit of the declaration issued on the 13th of March, with common consent and mutual agreement, to bring to justice all such as may have already joined or shall hereafter join the party of Napoleon, in order to compel him to relinquish his projects, and to render him incapable in future of disturbing the tranquility of Europe and the general peace, under the protection of which the rights, the freedom, and the independence of nations, have been established and secured.

2.—Although so great and salutary an object does not permit that the means destined to its attainment should be limited, and although the high contracting powers have resolved to devote to this object all such resources as they can, in their respective situations, dispose of; yet they have nevertheless agreed, that every one of them shall constantly have in the field 150,000 men complete, of whom at least one tenth shall be cavalry, with a proportionate artillery, (not reckoning garrisons) and to employ them in active and united service against the common enemy.

3.—The high contracting parties solemnly engage not to lay down their arms but in agreement with each other, nor until the object of the war assigned in the first article of the present treaty shall have been attained—nor until Bonaparte shall be wholly and completely deprived of the power of exciting disturbances, and of being able to renew his attempts to obtain the chief power of France.

4.—As the present treaty principally relates to the present circumstances, the engagements in the treaty of Chaumont, and particularly that contained in the 16th article, shall again recover their full force, as soon as the present object shall be attained.

5.—Everything relating to the command of the allied armies, the maintenance of the same, &c. shall be regulated by a special convention.

6.—The high contracting parties shall have the right reciprocally to accredit with the generals, commanders of their armies, officers, who shall be allowed the liberty of corresponding with their governments, in order to inform them of the military events, and of all that relates to the operation of the armies.

7.—As the engagements entered into by the present treaty have for object to maintain the general peace, the high contracting powers agree to invite all the powers of Europe to accede to them.

8--As the present treaty is simply and solely entered into with a view to support France and every other threatened country against the attempts of Bonaparte and his adherents, his most christian majesty shall be specially invited to accede thereto--and in the event of his majesty's claiming the force specified in article 2, he shall make known what assistance his circumstances enable him to contribute towards the object of the present treaty.

9--The present treaty shall be ratified, and the ratification exchanged within the period of one month, or sooner if possible.

In testimony whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed and sealed the same.

(LS)	Count RASAMQWSKY,
(LS)	Count NESSELEODE,
(LS)	Prince METTERNICH,
(LS)	Baron WESSENERBERG,
(LS)	Prince HARDENBERG,
(LS)	Baron HUMBOLDT,
(LS)	WELLINGTON.

At Vienna, the 25th of March, 1815.

London, April 24.---Admiral Gantheume has assumed the command of the Toulon fleet.

The Conscription Laws are, it is said, again acted upon in France.

A strong Channel fleet will be immediately collected, as a fleet of observation, under the command of Lord Keith.

The publication of the abdication of Maria Louisa is expected from day to day, but has not yet taken place.

Paris, April 7.---The plan of the new Constitution was finished this evening.

Deeply deploring the event, we wait for the official or authenticated details of the late horrid massacre of the American Prisoners, at Dartmoor, in England, when we shall present them to our readers.

New-York, June 10, 1815. The Cartel ship Brunswick, with 438 American prisoners, has just arrived from England. A ship load also arrived at Boston, on the 7th inst.: six others either had, or were about to sail, with prisoners for the U. States.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Owing to a want of experience, in forming the adjustment of parts, we have not been able to present this number of the American Magazine in the form that we proposed, nor to embrace in it that variety which we intended. In our next, we hope to give a greater variety, and to bring the arrangement more into system. Our MONTHLY RETROSPECT, is entirely crowded out, and the department of FOREIGN EVENTS, is far less than we intended.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

X., and O., are invited to remember us often. S., of B., has our thanks: 'Duchess County,' is on file. Juvenis, is under consideration; and we advise him to try his pen on other subjects. H., on the economy of caloric, and the best means of warming Rooms and Houses, both writes and reasons well. He will find a private communication soon, through the channel that he proposes. V. M. Albaniensis, and V. S., were received too late for this number. Agricola, has taken exactly the department that we wished to see him fill, and we greet him most heartily, though he came too late for this month. The promise of S., of H., to remember us sometimes, we well remember. J. S. C. is received: Galena, 64 per cent. of lead. 'A Manufacturer,' shall be attended to. Is Merino native, or imported? P. M., at Cincinnati, will please continue his attention.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

ONONDAGA, MAY 15, 1815.

SIR,

If the following Observations are of any utility, they are at your service, and should you desire it, I may send some more.

ONONDAGHARA.

Thermometrical Observations made near Manlius, County of Onondaga, December 1814.

December.	Time of observation			Course of the Winds.			REMARKS, MORNING—NOON, and NIGHT.
	Sun rise.	12 o'clock.	Sun setting.	Sunrise.	12 o'clock.	Sun setting.	
1	28	30	27	N.	—	—	Snowed moderately all day, (two inches deep.)
2	31	33	26	S.	—	—	Overcast, high wind and some snow.
3	10	16	14	N.W.	—	—	Cold high wind, some snow.
4	0	32	27	S.W.	—	—	Fair and light wind, remarkably pleasant day.
5	27	31	33	S.W.	—	S.	Overcast, " clouds and sunshine.
6	36	40	40	S.	—	—	Overcast, " likely for rain
7	40	40	37	S.W.	N.	N.W.	Rain, cloudy, " cloudy & pleasant.
8	32	30	33	S.	N.	N.	Overcast, snow, "
9	34	28	25	N.W.	—	—	Snow, " sleet
10	22	34	35	N.W.	S.W.	—	Overcast, snows very fast, overcast.
11	28	34	32	N.W.	—	—	Fair, overcast, snow.
12	25	30	25	N.W.	—	W.	Overcast, " snows very fast.
13	20	29	26	W.	—	—	Overcast, " "
14	20	22	20	W.	—	—	Mist, sleet, overcast, fair at evening.
15	18	25	28	calm.	N.W.	—	Overcast, " " very light chilly wind.
16	14	32	29	W.	W.	S.W.	Fair & light wind, " mist, trees cov. with ice.
17	31	41	36	S.	—	—	Overcast, " thaws fast, and misty, "
18	34	36	32	N.W.	W.	—	Overcast & thick mist, overcast, cloudy.
19	32	30	26	N.W.	—	—	Fine snow, overcast, cloudy.
20	18	18	16	N.W.	—	—	Overcast, " " a little snow fallen.
21	0	12	12	N.W.	—	—	Overcast & flights of snow, " cold & high wind.
22	18	28	26	N.W.	S.W.	S.	Cloudy, " overcast and strong wind.
23	28	34	32	S.	—	—	Overcast, fair, cloudy and strong wind.
24	24	20	15	N.W.	—	—	Overcast with snow, overcast, "
25	12	25	20	N.W.	—	—	Cloudy, " and pleasant, cloudy.
26	24	26	23	calm.	S.E.	—	Fair and pleasant " "
27	19	31	30	S.E.	S.	S.	Overcast, " and strong wind, overcast
28	33	40	32	S.	—	—	Freezing rain, rain, rain and thick mist.
29	32	34	32	calm.	N.W.	—	Mist and snow, mist, mist and snow.
30	19	20	18	N.W.	—	—	Snowed moderately, overcast, "
31	8	24	21	N.W.	—	—	Cloudy and flights of snow, overcast.

This month has been very healthy. The snow is now about six inches deep.

NOTE. We thank our attentive Correspondent, and take this occasion to invite a continuance of his favors;—and to express our wish to receive observations of this kind from as many of our friends as can make it convenient to furnish them.

EDITOR.

The average state of the atmosphere from 1802 to 1808 inclusive, in London, is shown in the following table.

	Average height of the Barometer.	Average height of the Thermometer.	Depth of rain in inches.
1802	29.706	50.38	23.35
3	29.778	50.31	26.39
4	29.873	50.65	34.00
5	29.864	48.00	25.00
6	29.815	51.77	42.00
7	29.746	51.66	26.00
8	29.724	50.60	30.50
Av. for 7 years,	29.786	50.48	29.62

Albany, 6 Mo. 3, 1815, 5h. afternoon. At 3 precisely, we had an interesting storm of hail and rain, with a few vivid streams of lightning. The hail fell fast during six minutes, and the hail-stones were from near $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ diameter. The most of them very hard and diaphanous, but many of the largest had a white opaque centre, and on cutting them open a small cavity was found in or near the middle. The cloud gathered around the summits of the mountains in the S. W. and burst upon us very suddenly, with a strong wind from that quarter. The wind had been southerly through the day, and the air warm and humid—the thermometer at 70°. The atmosphere is still loaded with vapor, though it has ceased to rain—the thermometer 62°.

At 4, I took the opportunity to test the correctness of the thermometer, with which I shall record the temperatures occasionally for this Work. After 3 minutes immersion in a pint bowl of the hail that had just fallen, it indicated 32°; and on adding fine salt, it fell to zero, thus determining its correctness. The hail was now congealed to a solid mass, and the bowl was covered on the outside with a beautiful coat of radiated white frost. In this situation, a white, dense vapor, rolled over the brim of the bowl, and descended in curls to the floor. The whole appearances were interesting, and my readers will have the goodness to excuse this minuteness, to which I invite other observers, solely for the purpose of a desirable accuracy in similar observations.

During the storm, a sloop, lying at the Watering Place, was struck by the lightning, which descended to the hold and ruined the mast, without injuring anybody, though there were more than twenty persons on board! A truly Providential escape.

The greatest heat of May, was on Sabbath the 28th at 4 P. M., 89½°;—in the sun, 101°. The wind was S. on the river, but the clouds ran from N. W. all day. How is this? The greatest heat of last summer, was on the 2d of July, 89°, and the winds were precisely as above. Both these *high* extremes were followed by *low* ones, and within 30 hours the temperature fell 27°.

ORIGINAL ANECDOTE.

The peculiar pertinency of a good joke, gives, to the wit displayed on these little occasions, all its value. The following anecdote will lose much of its force by this manner of relation. M. can relate it to the life.

W. and C. two auctioneers, were remarkably disproportioned in their stature. C. was a mere dwarf, and W. very tall. At a public sale, C. mounted a hogshhead partly filled with Scotch snuff in bladders, which stood on one end. As he was repeating one-and-ten, one-and-ten, going, going, going, gentlemen, the head gave way, and C. descended out of sight—gone, says W.—and the sneezing of C. left no doubt of the fact. for though out of sight, he was not out of hearing. The effect on the crowd was indescribable.



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A VIEW of the late PROTESTANT DUTCH CHURCH in the CITY of ALBANY.

This Venerable Edifice was situated at the junction of Trade, Market & Court Streets. It was erected A.D. 1713, and pulled down A.D. 1816. It included within the walls the site of "a church the corner stone" whereof was laid by the Proprietors of the Town A.D. 1614.

James Smith

THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE,

CONDUCTED BY

HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD, A. M.

Author of a Geography of the United States, a Gazetteer of the State of New-York, &c. :—a Member of the New-York Historical Society, and one of the Counsellors of the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts :—a Member of the American Antiquarian Society, and of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, Massachusetts.

No. 2.

JULY, 1815.

VOL. I.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

THE establishment of an "American Magazine" in the city of Albany, is a circumstance arising out of the progress of human affairs, that denotes a very improved state of society, and unites with many other matters of public interest to demonstrate that the successful and steady attainment of wealth has not been unaccompanied by some of that leisure and taste for literature, of which it is the immediate parent.

Two centuries have just elapsed since the first settlement was made on the site where this city now stands : A solitary block-house, surrounded with palisadoes, was capacious enough to hold all the white people from the shores of Ontario to the island of Manhattan. Many a time where now is the busy hum of men, has the rustling of the timorous deer given to the lone and watchful sentinel quick and fearful thoughts of the wily Indian ; and many a time has the stately forest concealed a deadly ambush, where now stand the largest and fairest mansions of the place.

What will be the condition of Albany in 200 years more ? If we may reason from the extraordinary rapidity of the improvements of late years, and if indeed we may count upon the resources which surround us, and the intrinsic ones of an active population singularly alive to improve every advantage, it may be confidently predicted that Albany ere that period has elapsed, will have attained a condition both for extent and population at least equal to what the city of New-York has done in a similar period. But the most interesting speculation relates to the intellectual and moral improvement which it may be supposed to have attained at that day. This certainly depends, with all its important consequences, upon the present generation : If the tree is of a good kind, the fruit will not be bad, and they who planted it, will be blessed of many yet unborn. The venerable old stock which first took root in the soil was of a good and approved kind, and promised to overshadow the land : but nature appears to follow a system where the great principles are dissolution and renovation, and like to our native forests where sometimes extensive tracts of pine trees destroyed by the hand of the cultivator, by hurricanes or by fire, are mysteriously and spontaneously replaced by oaks, walnuts and other plants and shrubs never found there before ; so when the ground where the ancient stock first reared itself, was found worth cultivation,

did new kinds with their multitudinous species start up and supplant the good old monarchs of the woods. It is true there are a few stately trees yet standing, and some degenerate and unthrifty plants are sparsely found far and wide; but the vigorous second growth is pressing on, and will extinguish every thing but the memory of them. Happily this second growth is also of a good kind, and it is matter of consolation to reflect, that whatever blemishes they may be reproached with, the Dutch and New-England people have never been tainted with that infidelity, which at times has almost infected the whole world; and to be right in this all essential point is truly to be "*sana mente, corpore sano.*"

If the decorum which accompanies the exercise of religious duties, continues to preserve its influence in this place, such an example will be a standing admonition to the dissolute, and when other influences are of no avail, conscious shame may at length carry him to the house of God. As to moral improvement, in as far as it regards a people, it depends essentially upon intellectual cultivation, upon the resources afforded by education, and literary institutions. An individual may occasionally be found walking with propriety through life, without much cultivation of mind, but a people altogether without education and literature must always remain in the condition of the aborigines of this country. The establishment of the academy which is soon to go into operation in this city is therefore an event not to be looked upon with indifference or tamely approved of; for it is pregnant with the most important advantages to the rising generations, and is calculated to produce the most auspicious results to the population of the city for ages to come. It is impossible therefore to contemplate such an event in all its various relations, without feeling sentiments of gratitude to the authors of so beneficial a measure, and particularly to the corporation of the city of Albany, who have liberally endowed the institution with a prompt munificence, that will be an everlasting honor to them; and which inspires all men with a proper confidence that the public funds of the city in such hands will be always beneficially directed to objects of public importance. Every thing hitherto has concurred to promise success to the rising institution: Amongst the trustees we find men of the greatest intelligence, and of unequivocal public and private worth; and they again have united to name a gentleman* to preside over the institution, very advantageously known in the whole northern section of the union, for his mathematical attainments, his knowledge of the languages, his particular talent for educating youth, and his unblemished character. The influence which all these great qualities may have upon the institution, and upon the city at large cannot be calculated. The personal character of this gentleman will no doubt attract as many students as it will be convenient to educate, and in process of time the great grammar school of Albany, like Eton and Westminster, may turn out more learned men than the universities: In the mean time a love of

* Dr. Benjamin Allen.

learning will gradually become diffused amongst society: Politics and commerce will not continue to reign over every conversation, we shall have some learned men amongst us, and literature as in our other cities will take its proper rank in social intercourse; in short it is apprehended that this institution will make a very favourable impression upon the general character of the city.

Whilst on the subject of public improvement, it is but justice to a modest, yet very enterprising inhabitant of this city, to speak of his merits, which are very great and generally acknowledged: and it is particularly due to him because he has wisely abstained from nauseating the public by any of those fulsome addresses so common amongst vulgar men, but which always defeat their object. Mr. John Cook is too advantageously known to be suspected of any improper conduct, he has always conducted himself with great propriety, and by a display of intelligence, activity, and the most ready obligingness has absolutely rendered himself at length altogether necessary to the public. Some years ago the city of Albany was without any place of public resort—"as dull as Albany" was a common reproach in the mouth of travellers. Mr. Cook tried the dubious experiment of establishing a reading room, with which he connected fountains of the mineral waters from Ballston and Saratoga Spas: this first attempt languished under the partial patronage of a few of the citizens of the place. Subsequently he removed to a more public situation: the admirable manner in which he preserves the waters at a temperature and elasticity little inferior to the sources, attracted in time citizens and strangers: An opportunity was thus given to him to exercise that urbanity, kind attention, and general usefulness which are eminent qualities in him, and so remarkably did he ingratiate himself, that it became soon a matter of surprize how the public could ever have done without him. This situation where he remained a few years, although central, had some disadvantages: the room was small, and did not admit of sufficient light sometimes to see even Mr. Cook himself, for he is the converse of Bonaparte, *good* but not *great*, and the entrance was up a narrow stairs not broad enough for two persons to pass each other conveniently. This stairs was exactly betwixt two of the banks of the city, and received the name of Cook's Streights. From these disadvantages however he lately removed to a suite of rooms well calculated for the purpose: A large room at the entrance contains the domestic and foreign papers, the mineral waters are in an alcove adjoining, which again leads to a very pleasant airy room, where his library and pamphlets are. Annexed to this, and with a private communication to the stair case is a neat small room for ladies appropriately furnished. The whole establishment is arranged very neatly, and the greatest decorum prevails there. Mr. Cook it is said has even succeeded in abolishing the practice of smoking cigars in the evening, which had obtained to great excess in his former situation: this is equally creditable to the smokers and to the establishment; and is certainly a triumph Mr. Cook has obtained for decency and cleanliness.

We are like bees in a hive, and as long as we all respectively discharge our duty, the community goes on well, and each deserves his modicum of praise : but where there is one amongst us found in the constant and proper exercise of his domestic duties, and his duties amongst men, and ministering at the same time to our essential wants, and devoting himself to our ease and recreation, we owe such a man no small share of admiration : and when he succeeds by his good qualities to make himself so necessary that we feel as if we could not do without him, we ought to cherish and encourage him, and the patronage and consideration which we extend to him, should be commensurate with the modesty which makes him abstain from intruding himself upon us. A. B.

Albany, June 1815.

The following is copied from the Albany Gazette of July 3, 1815.

The Corporation of Albany have appropriated 50 acres of valuable land, in a very healthy and salubrious situation, on the south bounds of the city, half a mile west of the river, and near the present poor house establishment, for the new alms house, which is contemplated, and for gardens, &c. to be connected with the institution. This most laudable and benevolent grant for an object so worthy the present state of civil society, as the comfort and convenience of a class of people, who are solely dependant on the public charity for support, bespeaks the highest praise to the gentlemen who compose our present city council ; and, in connection with the new academy, now building, and the grants made for its endowment, and for the erection of a building for the instruction of poor children on the plan of the celebrated and benevolent Lancaster, places the city of Albany on an eminence for public spirit and liberality, not to be exceeded by any town or city in the United States. The grants of monies and lands for the above objects, exclusive of the sites on which the buildings are to be erected, cannot be less than from 100 to 150,000 dollars.

The academy is to stand on the northwest corner of the public square, on a line with the capitol. The main building 80 feet by 70, and the wings 30 feet by 45. The building to be 3 stories high.

The Lancaster school house is to be on a scale sufficiently large for the reception of 500 children in one room. The building to be two stories, exclusive of the basement story. Its site is in Eagle-street, at its intersection with Lancaster-street, formerly Tiger-street—a very happy and appropriate change in the name, and we trust ominous of great good to the rising generation.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

I offer the following extract from the original *Charter of the City of Albany*, and hope you will give it to your readers, presum-

ing it will be new and interesting to many of them. This may be classed among our antiquities, as the charter was granted July 22, A. D. 1686 ; and it is believed to be the oldest charter for the incorporation of a city in the United States. Subjoined is a list of the names of the officers, who were first appointed by the charter of incorporation.

The CHARTER of the City of Albany.

" THOMAS DONGAN, Lieutenant and Governor of the Province of New-York, and dependencies in America, under his most sacred majesty JAMES the Second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, &c. and supreme lord and proprietor of the said province of New-York, and its dependencies.

To all persons to whom these presents shall or may come, or in any wise concern, sendeth greeting.

" Whereas the town of Albany is an antient town within the said province, and the inhabitants of the said town have held, used, and enjoyed, as well within the same as elsewhere within the said province, divers and sundry rights, liberties, privileges, franchises, free customs, pre-eminences, advantages, jurisdictions, emoluments and immunities, as well by prescription, as by grants, confirmations and proclamations, not only by divers governors and commanders in chief in the said province, under his said majesty, but also of several governors, generals and commanders in chief of the Nether Dutch nation, whilst the same was or has been under their power and subjection. And whereas divers lands, tenements and hereditaments, jurisdictions, liberties, immunities and privileges, have heretofore been given and granted to the inhabitants of the said town, sometimes by the name of commissaries of the town of Beverwyck ; sometimes by the name of the commissaries of the town of Albany ; sometimes by the name of Schepenen of William-Stadt ; and sometimes by the name of justices of the peace for the town of Albany ; and by divers other names as by their several grants, writings, records and minutes amongst other things may more fully appear. And whereas the inhabitants of the said town have erected, built, and appropriated at their own proper cost and charges, several public buildings, accommodations and conveniences for the said town, as also certain pieces or parcels of ground for the use of the same, that is to say, the town-hall or Stadt-house, with the ground thereunto belonging ; the church or meeting place, with the ground about the same ; the burial place, adjoining to the palisades at the southeast end of the town ; the watch-house and ground thereunto belonging : a certain piece or parcel of land, commonly called or known by the name of the Pasture, situate, lying and being to the southward of the said town, near the place where the old fort stood, and extending along Hudson's river, till it comes over against the most northerly point of the island, commonly called Martin Gerritsen's island, having to the east Hudson's river, to the south the manor of Rensselaerwyck, to

the west the high-way leading to the town, the pasture late in the tenure and occupation of Martin Gerritsen, and the pasture late in the tenure and occupation of Casper Jacobse, to the north the several pastures late in the tenure and occupation of Robert Sanders, Myndert Harmense, and Evert Wendel, and the several gardens late in the tenures and occupation of Dirk Wessels, Killian Van Rensselaer and Abraham Staats, with their and every of their appurtenances; and also have established and settled one ferry from the said town to Greenbush, situate on the other side of the Hudson's river, for the accommodation and conveniency of passengers, the said citizens and travellers, &c. &c."

Peter Schuyler, *Mayor*; Isaac Swinton, *Recorder*; Robert Livingston, *Town Clerk*; Dirck Wessels, Jan Jans Bleecker, David Schuyler, Johannis Wendel, Lavinus Van Schaick, and Adrian Gerritse, *Aldermen*; Joachim Staats, John Lansing, Isaac Verplank, Lawrence Van Ale, Albert Ryckman, and Melgert Wyantse, *Assistants*; Jan Bleecker, *Chamberlain*; Richard Pretty, *Sheriff*; James Parker, *Marshal*.

It was also my intention to send you some extracts from "Ordinances of the Mayor," &c. for the government of said city, and which appear to be very old, but they are all unfortunately without date, which sufficiently proves their very great antiquity, and must increase the interest of the antiquarian. V. S.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

MR. EDITOR,

One of the subscribers to your valuable miscellany, within the county of Cayuga, through that channel, begs leave to congratulate the religious public, that on the 22d of February last, a Bible Society was organized, at the court house, in this county, by the name and style of the Cayuga Bible Society. Having resided in this region nine years, and during this period, having repeatedly visited every settlement in this and many of the adjacent counties, he made it his business to enquire into the spiritual welfare of the inhabitants, and he can now state to the christian public, and to all who receive the bible as a revelation from God, that there is a deplorable want of the inspired volume. He has already distributed some hundreds of this precious treasure, but a great deficiency still remains. Many are still famishing for the bread of life. And are there none in the opulent city of Albany, or the neighboring towns and villages, who will repay the Lord a small part of that substance, which he hath so mercifully lent unto them? The promise is sure, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days." The soul of one immortal is worth millions of worlds. What bosom is so cold that does not wish to be instrumental in rescuing it from the regions of eternal woe! Those who wish to contribute to this benevolent society, will please to leave their donations with Horatio Gates Spafford, and they may rest assured that they will be sacredly appropriated to the object for which they were intended.

The officers of the Cayuga Bible Society for the present year, are—

Rev. Hezekiah North Woodruff, *President*,

William Brown, Esq. *Vice-President*.

Rev. Seth Smith, *Secretary*.

Mr. Horace Hills, *Treasurer*.

Rev. Messrs. Royall Phelps,

Levi Parsons,

Henry Ford,

Benjamin Rice, &

Capt. Joseph Rhodes.

} *Directors.*

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

I offer no apology for troubling you with the original etymology of the names of two of the western counties of this state. You can make such use of my letter as you may think fit.

In the language of the Iroquois or Six Nations, there is a word which signifies *stinking shore, or beach*; and which these Indians speak Ga-ta-rá-ke-ras, with the broad sound of a. This I am assured by the chiefs, is the origin of Cataraugus.

There is another word or phrase which signifies *of the fog, as the fog, and foggy place*; this is Ūts ha-tá-ke, with the long sound of o, broad a as above, and the English sound of short a in the last syllable. I use the letters that the chiefs used, who have some knowledge of English, when requested by me to write the above words. This word, they say, is the Indian one which has been Frenchified and Anglicised into Chatauqua, a *corruption* that they ridicule as extremely childish. It is indeed laughable enough to hear these children of nature laugh at our corruption of *their language*, and I have more than once witnessed their strictures upon us.

For the shore of Lake Erie, in Cahtaraukaras county, the distinction of stinking beach is well known to be appropriate; and foggy place is as much so for all the adjoining height of land along that shore, as well as around the Oteshatauka lake.

The accounts that I promised you of the religious rites of the Indians, and of their religion itself, will be the subject of another letter. I know not what interest others may feel in these things, but I know your anxiety on the occasion, and shall use every means in my power to gratify you. But I have another motive in these inquiries, the object of which is to do justice to a subject on which little is yet known to the public, except through the medium of the idle romance of fiction, and much of this is worse than nothing.

July 1, 1815.

W.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

The following notice of a singular appearance on the face of the moon, I offer for your consideration. It is my wish, (if it meet

your approbation,) that the occurrence may be made public, in hopes to learn something more about it from other observers. If the same phenomenon was noticed by any person into whose hands this may fall, (should you publish it,) the observer would oblige the public by communicating the result of his observations.

On Tuesday, June 20th, at 9 30' in the evening, I was viewing the moon through an achromatic telescope, which magnifies about 40 times. For some time I had been particularly attentive to the bright spots near the E. side of the moon, which was now full-faced, and thought that I had observed unusual variations in the colour and brightness of these spots. While occupied in this way, my attention was arrested by an appearance like that of a ball or globe, apparently, (to my eye,) about 1 inch diameter. On discovering it, I looked off the glass, and could see nothing on the face of the moon; I then again applied to the telescope and distinctly traced the progress of the little globe, transiting obliquely downward from about the S. E. to the N. W. across the face of the moon, $\frac{1}{3}$ E. of its centre, as near as I could judge. I repeated the trial to discover it by the naked eye, twice, but could discern nothing; and on looking again in the glass, instantly saw the little stranger. The line of its course was not in right line, but curved like the segment of some great circle, its centre low in the N. East. This ball or globe appeared bright and luminous all over, and I could not but imagine that it had a degree of transparency like ice or glass; but a brilliant ring of white, faintly tinged with a reddish yellow, completely encircled it, and conspicuously defined its border on the face of the moon. When it passed off that planet, I lost sight of it in an instant, though I looked with the utmost care; and continuing my observations for a long time, saw nothing like it afterwards. If I am not much mistaken, that principal bright spot on the eastern border of the moon, showed an unusual brightness during the whole of my observations upon it that night, and I submit the correctness of this remark to other persons who may have noticed it at the same time. Respecting the globe which I have noticed, and its transit over the moon, I have no opinion to offer; but shall wait with much anxiety to learn whether it was seen by any body else, and if so, what may be their opinions concerning it. I made immediately a drawing of the face of the moon, and traced the stranger's course upon it, which is at your service, should you desire to have it.

July 4, 1815.

DELTA.

MR. SPAFFORD, SIR,

Your notice of the storm of hail and rain, which happened on the 6th of June, has excited me to communicate some observations made upon similar occasions in the city of New-York, where, in the summer season, storms commonly come from the west.

An extensive thick black cloud appears just above the western horizon, which advances sometimes slowly, at other times rapidly,

and produces a partial darkness. When these black clouds advance with rapidity they are generally the most extensive, and are always attended with violent gusts of wind, which come in the same direction with the cloud. Excessive showers of rain, sometimes accompanied with hail, and likewise thunder and lightning follow in rapid succession. When the clouds are not very extensive, the wind and rain that follow are not often violent.

It is worthy of remark that such storms always take place after noon, and generally between four o'clock and sunset. They are always preceded by southerly winds, moist atmosphere, and sultry weather; and a cool invigorating west, or north west wind and dry atmosphere almost invariably follow.

Dr. Franklin observed that north east storms commenced in the south west, and of course, that they retrograded, or moved backwards. North east storms since Dr. Franklin's time have been observed to extend the whole length of the coast of the United States, and the difference in the time of their prevalence at New Hampshire and Georgia has been observed to be about 11 or 12 hours. These storms have extended as far as the West Indies. How far the westerly storms have extended has not I believe been noticed. The prevalence of winds is accounted for by the rarefaction of the atmosphere by the heat of the sun, and the rushing in of dense air from colder parts. Supposing these westerly storms to commence in the city of New-York, the air must be more rarefied there, than in other parts west of that city, and the air in the west, in consequence of its superior density, displaces the rarefied air in and about New-York. But, as like causes produce like effects, the same sun that rarefies the atmosphere of New-York will also rarefy the air in New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, and still farther westward. It may therefore be supposed that the atmosphere west of New-York is, on the same day, as much rarefied as it is at that city, and in such a case the pressure and resistance will be equal. I think it has been observed, that on the continent of North America the climate moderates towards the west nearly as much as it does towards the south; and likewise, that on extremely hot as well as cold days the thermometer is similarly affected at places that are near and remote and in various directions; hence it is improbable that the atmosphere in any particular place near the surface of the earth is at any time sufficiently dense to displace that of another, and especially to move with the velocity and violence of a storm. But during a storm, especially one accompanied with hail, a column of air where the hail is formed, and whence it descends, must be at or below the freezing point, and the same cold air that congeals the falling rain and forms hail, will from its density press heavily upon the rarefied air beneath, and cause it to rush on rapidly in a horizontal direction, producing the effects witnessed on such occasions. During its descent, the cold column of air is warmed, partly by attracting the caloric from the rain, which is

thereby converted into hail, and partly by that obtained from the warm atmosphere beneath it. After the storm the weather is generally much cooler than before its commencement.

July, 1815.

ENQUIRER.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

VINEGAR.—Many persons fail of getting good vinegar, by filling the casks too full. There should be a considerable space in every cask, not filled with the liquor intended to be converted into vinegar, in order that the acid may accumulate and quicken the fermentation. I have seen a barrel of cyder, which was kept full, that had been standing in a favorable place during a whole summer, and had soured but very little, which on being divided into two barrels, late in September, was immediately converted into good vinegar. In new countries, much vinegar is still made from the sap of the maple, and I know that this liquor more frequently fails to produce good vinegar, than cyder does. Let the above method be tried. If the liquor has become ropy, add a little sweet milk and stir it well. And as the liquor when ropy, preserves a lower temperature than when fluid, it may require a little additional heat to make it ferment.

J. C.

July, 1815.

"THE VELVET CUSHION."—*D. & T. Longworth, New-York, 1815.*

We had so often found literary trash and mental poison, done up in the form of a small volume, ornamented with a handsome coloured cover, that we turned with aversion the other day from 'a new book' with the above title. It was offered us for perusal, a task for which we had no inclination, until prompted by curiosity to look into it, in consequence of a dispute that we heard whether or not it were a Novel; a point on which two learned novel readers could not agree. We have therefore given it a perusal, and take the pen to announce the book to our readers as well meriting their attention. Whether or not it is a novel, we leave to the sagacity of others. It purports to be the History of a Velvet Cushion, which originally belonged to the Established Church in England, and which during several revolutions in church and state, underwent many changes and passed through many hands. With its own history, it has contrived to incorporate something of the history of the manners of the times from the 'days of the bloody Queen Mary,' down to those of Charles II., 'and to the middle of the 18th century.'

The book, which is written by a clergyman of the church of England, contains 130 pages, and neither the singularity of the title, nor the singular and unique character of the work, ought to forbid an attentive perusal, to which we recommend it. Not that it will exactly please every body, but that it may afford some aliment for every mind; and such aliment as can do no harm, while it may do much good.

The main object of the writer cannot be misconceived, if seriously considered; and we confess, it presents one of the most pleasing and interesting portraits of a good clergyman, that we have ever seen, and the most eloquent and fascinating persuasives for 'Establishment.' With these motives and views we have nothing to do, only to enter our dissent from the main argument, while we commend to all the fervent piety and the humble charity of the good Pastor. There are many excellent tales told by this Cushion, and the traits of character are most admirably sketched.

Fortunately the American Editor has added but a few notes, and we should have been better pleased if these had been omitted. They reminded us of an unlucky interruption to a train of solemn thought, which we experienced on a late occasion by some boys firing squibs under our windows.

It appears to us that evangelical religion, (as it respects the intercourse of the soul of christians with the Father of spirits, and our higher duties as moral and religious agents,) has little to do with the mere dress of opinion. And although as men, existing in civil society, our relationships naturally produce a kind of social character of religious opinion, yet as these distinctions must be unknown in the sight of God, so ought they to be in the hearts of the saints. As professing christians, our great anxiety is constantly exercised for the increase of those who are justified by faith in Christ, in newness of life. Knowing who it is that is the good shepherd over all, and his sufficiency to preserve them, we are only anxious that his flocks may be increased every where, and without much anxiety about the name of that sect or person by whom they are gathered. With such sentiments, and such convictions of religion and religious duty, we dismiss this subject for the present, into the consideration of which we have been inadvertently drawn, and pass to some extracts from the 'Velvet Cushion,' from which we fear we have too long detained the reader.

CHAPTER II.

THE first place in which I remember to have seen the light was in the shop of an upholsterer in Fleet-street, in the days of bloody Queen Mary. You, Sir, who feel something, though I rejoice to say little, of the ravages of time in your own person, (the old lady notwithstanding the qualifying word 'little,' looked somewhat grave and angry) can easily believe that I have lost much of my original dignity. I was then as splendid as gold and tassels could make me. Several of my species lay near me, and none of them less magnificently caparisoned than myself. Of these, alas, I soon lost sight. They have long since fallen before that besom which sweeps the high and the low, the velvet and the serge, into one indiscriminate grave. I soon heard myself destined by the master of the warehouse, to the pulpit of a great church in the metropolis, and thither I was, next day, transported in a coach. And here, Sir, I beg to observe, that I was not always able to write my own history. In fact, when I entered the church, nothing could be more ignorant than myself. I had heard only the conversation of the manufactory. But my new circumstances gave me great advantages. It soon occurred to me, that, in so busy a world, even a cushion could not be meant to be idle. As my nature, therefore, unfitted me for action, I determined to give myself

wholly to thought and speculation. You, Sir, who both think and act, will not despise those who do only the former. The Arabs, indeed, as I have heard, when they take a prisoner, always first ask him what he can do? And when a French Scavan, whom they caught, hoping to escape manual drudgery, told them in reply, that he was accustomed only to sedentary pursuits—they, by way of turning him to account, actually tarred and feathered him, and set him to hatch eggs. But Arabs are barbarians, and in my native country I could not fear any such indignity. But to return.—If my nature disposed me to thought, so did my circumstances. From the Pispah of the pulpit I have seen most of the great men of successive ages, whom piety, custom, accident, or their wives, have brought to church. In the same commanding situation I have heard all the best preachers of three centuries.—Thus all the grand questions in religion and morality, and, by dint of fasts and thanksgivings, in politics, have been submitted to my consideration.—And, when conveyed for warmth during the week, from the pulpit to the vestry, I have heard all sorts of questions discussed, in all sorts of tempers, by all sorts of men. The clerks, sextons, and pew-openers, also a class of persons falsely thought to have little to do with the affairs of the church, except to take one fee for burying the dead, and sometimes another for digging them up again, have given me much information. They play, indeed, inferior parts in the ecclesiastical drama; but, as far as free and fluent elocution goes to form an actor, they have probably few superiors. Amidst such privileges, I trust I have not been altogether idle. And if you are curious to see the result of my meditations, and to compare them with your own, you have now the opportunity. The paper in your hands contains an account of much that I have heard and seen, with my own comments upon it.

"Was there ever such a treasure, my love," said the old gentleman. She could think of no such treasure except, indeed, the aged vicar himself. It was not that she had the same instinctive and antiquarian attachment for the cushion with himself; but she had taught herself pretty much to love whatever he said. Indeed, fifty years of intimate communion were not likely to leave much difference of taste. Perhaps, with the exception of two habits of the good vicar, there was scarcely an act of his life to which she could not reconcile herself. The habits which I mean, were occasionally smoking a single pipe; and sometimes, though very rarely indeed, preaching a borrowed sermon. The truth as to these points, was, she could ill endure that a mouth, ordained to be the channel of his own kindness and wisdom, should be degraded into, either a mere conveyance of smoke, or of the thoughts of other people. As to other things, they were like the strings of two finely tuned instruments brought into contact—touch the one, and the other vibrated. I have always been deeply interested in this aged couple. All the world are delighted to watch the young as they grow up together. To me it is not less delightful to see the old wear off together—to see two creatures, of distinct tempers and passions, by degrees, melting into one—to see how happy those may be, who habitually prefer the happiness of another to their own—to see, finally, real love, like a flower blooming amidst ruins, surviving the vigor of the body, and all those attractions on which it is thought to depend. Some fanciful writer has imagined, that mankind fall from heaven in pairs; and that, unless the right pair meet again after their descent, they can neither of them be happy. If this be true, I should certainly imagine that this venerable couple dropped from the skies together; at all events, they will, I doubt not, together ascend the skies. But as they will frequently appear in the course of this history, the reader may judge of all these things for himself. In the mean time I proceed to another chapter.

CHAPTER III.

"As I said, Sir, I was now the cushion of a Catholic church, and I assure you that I soon felt all the benefit of my recent consecration and peculiar appointment. A good Catholic treats even his cushion with reverence.

When I looked round on the edifice into which I was introduced, I was at once awed and delighted. The vast Gothic arches, the solemn light, the

general air of majesty, all inspired the most lofty ideas of the Being to whom the temple was dedicated. And here, Sir, as I am likely to say a few hard things of Popery presently, I wish, by way of set off, to remind you good Protestants, that you owe to Popery almost every thing that deserves to be called by the name of a Church.

But to return, Sir. I soon discovered that, after admiring the magnificence of Popery, my topics of admiration were nearly exhausted. I no sooner heard parts of the Bible than I began to compare them with what I saw and heard around me. And I need not tell you, Sir, that the Bible and Popery do not very strictly harmonize. I saw an endless round of childish ceremonies—water said to cleanse from sin—unction that at once prepared the sinner for heaven—relics of the cross which put together, were twice as big as the cross itself could have been—figures of saints said to have fallen from heaven, but carved (as I heard the clerk say) about fifty years before, out of the remnants of an old pew—images said to open their eyes, to cure diseases, to send victory, and so on—but all of which, I who was in the secret, knew to have been created by a neighboring joiner. All this, however, though bad enough, was not the worst. I actually saw the priest hold up a piece of bread which he affirmed to be Christ, and all the people fell down and worshipped it. As to much that I heard, I have thought it an implicit duty to forget it as soon as possible. Exceptions, indeed, there were. But, too often, I heard little but certain maxims and histories, of no authority or use, which they called traditions. Sometimes these were exchanged for fabulous histories of the very saints I have mentioned as having been manufactured by a neighboring joiner. Sometimes, also, I heard of the duty of penance, of worshipping the Virgin, of burning and pinching men into orthodoxy, and of confession to the priest. As to this last duty, I observed, that what many seem to think a part of it was most rigidly performed, namely, the statement which the confessionist gave of his own excellencies. I heard much also of absolution; and especially remember the man who bought at a high price, from the Pope's nuncio, absolution for three months in advance from whatever sin he might commit; and in virtue of his license, before the expiration of the patent, robbed this very nuncio of all he had pilfered by the sale of this and many other absolutions. I heard occasionally also from a neighbouring court, what was still more terrible—the crackling of faggots, and the groans of heretical victims.

CHAPTER VIII.

"Such is the change in human things, that I, who had a few years since been esteemed too splendid for the pulpit of dissent, was now deemed too shabby. The congregation, as I said, had decayed in piety—but it had increased in wealth. Indeed, this very increase was partly the cause of this very decay. Dissent like every other republic, is less likely to remain pure when it begins to be wealthy! Its purity depends upon its alienation from the world, with which riches have a tendency to incorporate it. So happened it now. The increased riches of the congregation lured it into the vortex of ecclesiastical splendor—and the first thing cast overboard was my poor self. It was decided in vestry, unanimously, with the exception at least of a single primitive old gentleman, who most pathetically pleaded the distresses of some poor widows in the congregation—that the "old cushion," as they were pleased to call me, should be discarded, and a new one, becoming the dignity of the congregation, be substituted in my place."

"I confess, Sir, that I heard of my dismissal without regret. My early habits indisposed me to dissent. I felt much tenderness, indeed, for the scrupulous dissenter, much admiration of their general zeal, and a hearty desire to co-operate with them for every good end. * * * * *

"The changes in my circumstances were many and great. I passed through a variety of places of worship. At length I fell from public into private life. And I shall beg to describe to you a few persons whose private devotions it was my lot to assist.

"*Vetusta* was the first. She was an aged lady, who to the surprise of a good many gay friends, had lately possessed herself of some devout books, and of myself, and had, moreover, taken down some dubious pictures of nymphs and satyrs in her dressing room, to fit it up as an oratory.—Few people had run a more various course than *Vetusta*. She was a woman of unusually strong passions, for which, in her earliest years, she found a sufficient employment in a life of ceaseless dissipation. When what is called pleasure ceased to stimulate, she gave herself to books. When books also had lost their influence, she found a vacuum which she hoped religion might fill up. And, accordingly, by another roll of the wheel, she took up religion. Sensation was what she wanted—and pleasure, books, devotion, were the successive substances out of which it was to be extracted. All were used much in the same spirit; and it is not harsh to say, that she was just as much a Christian on her knees at sixty, as at her toilet thirty years before. Admitted to her privacies, I narrowly watched this stimulating process. She read, talked, prayed, all that she might *feel*; and, so that she felt, cared little for the effect of her devotions upon her life and temper.

"When *Vetusta* died, I lay beside her, supporting the last book of devotion with which a poor niece who stood by had fruitlessly endeavored to shed a ray of heavenly comfort upon the cheerless death-bed of her aunt. *Vetusta*, though she had ceased to love any thing here, felt nothing but a chilly horror of an hereafter.

"The car which had, as it were, borne her affections from the earth, had not, like that of the prophet, translated them to heaven. She hung in suspense between two worlds, tired of the one and unfit for the other. Such a death-bed shut out all the hopes which light up the dying eyes of a real christian. Her niece no sooner saw the last breath quivering on her lips, than, shuddering at the awful scene, she almost unconsciously snatched me up, and the volume lying upon me, carried me to her chamber, locked the door, and then poured forth such a prayer to God as grief, the yawning chasm of the grave, the awful visions of eternity of which she had just caught a glimpse, were calculated to inspire. I became her property, lay in her closet, and saw and heard her in all her future moments of intercourse with God and with herself; and from her peculiar character and circumstances, soon felt a singular interest in her fate. The lesson taught by her little history is so useful, that it ought to be told to almost every parent but yourself, who have no need to learn it. And you, Sir, so love the young, that you will rejoice to see a beacon lighted up for other parents, though it may be useless to yourself. I shall, therefore, perform this important office.

"The name, then, of my new protectress was *Selina*; and a gentler spirit was scarcely ever let loose amidst the snares and tumults of the world. She had been taken from her parents by her aunt four years before I saw her. They were persons of the cast which would be called amiable—but amiable rather, from easiness of temper, than from strength of principle. They had, indeed, little or no religion; and her father especially, a man of almost morbid delicacy, on account of some indefensible conduct in a neighbor professing to be religious, had contracted a strong antipathy to it. Their very narrow circumstances, and his infirm health, had induced them to resign her to her aunt; and both parents and child felt a real pang in the separation. They loved her as an amiable child deserved to be loved; and she loved them too well to observe any of their numerous defects.

"Once introduced into her aunt's family, she soon perceived a great change in the appearance of things. The apparatus of religion surrounded her on every side. The devotions of the family were many and long, and her aunt, having found a new stimulus in the work of converting her niece, gave herself cordially to it, bridled her temper, and strongly and eloquently pleaded the cause of religion. The mind of *Selina* was soon awed by the warnings of her gloomy monitress. She began to discover that, at least, the 'terrors of the law' had been veiled at home—that she herself had been standing, perhaps, on the verge of perdition, without knowing it; and, adopting by

degrees the creed and habits of her teacher, she fell into the formal, superstitious observance of such rites as her aunt prescribed. Far, indeed, was the religion she embraced from that of the gospel—It was, in fact, the law without the gospel—it was religion in eclipse—the dark without the illuminated part of the heavenly disc. Terror was her prevalent feeling. She saw God alone as he sits pavilioned in clouds, rolling the thunders, and flashing the lightnings of Mount Sinai; but not as he descends, shorn of his beams, and with healing in his wings, upon the holy hill of Sion. This view of God naturally darkened all her prospects, and converted her religion into a sort of desponding effort to soothe, by her future life, the wrath of this despotic and vindictive Being. The character of the house corresponded with this state of mind. Her aunt, in order to rouse her own feelings, surrounded herself with all those symbols of religion which were best calculated to awaken her exhausted sensibilities; and these, however lost upon herself, produced their full effect upon her niece. She became fitter for La Trappe, than for the holy, happy life of a Christian.

CHAPTER IX.

Selina was deeply affected at the death of her aunt; not, indeed, because she loved her, for that was next to impossible; but the scenes of death passing before an already disordered eye, had scared her with the most terrible visions. Nor had the dying language of her aunt yielded her spirits the smallest relief. She had died, and, as it were, 'made no sign' of her hopes of any better and brighter state of being. Selina, as she hung over her corpse, had seen, indeed, the ashes of the dead, but could not discover among them that bright spark of hope and joy which is to blaze anew in the kingdom of God. The state, therefore, in which she was left, was truly melancholy. She was not religious—she was superstitious. She felt herself guilty, but had never been taught to lift her eyes to the cross of a Saviour. She felt herself weak but no one had led her to the 'Comforter,'—to that 'Spirit' who dries up the tears of the miserable. In these sad circumstances she tried various means of approaching her God. She shed many bitter tears—she denied herself even those allowed indulgences which a gracious God has so profusely spread around us—she ran through a daily circle of unmeaning ceremonies. But, in all this, her poor wounded conscience found no consolation; for man is not meant to be his own Saviour. It might have been hoped, indeed, that she would have found her cure amidst the pages of the Bible, which she daily read, but this she learned to pervert, so as to suit her own gloomy views. She pointed all its terrors at herself; and gave all its promises to others. Soon the evil spread like a cloud over every thing she saw. All around her began to invest itself with new terrors. She fancied a sword across every path, and a hand writing upon every wall.

Her sad circumstances were, of course, soon made known to her parents; and, though their tenderness protracted her fall, they, ignorant of religion themselves, were unable to supply the proper pillar for her sinking mind. A consumption followed, and I saw her, at nineteen, carried out to her grave, the unripe victim of a neglected education, and a spurious faith.

[To be continued.]

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

The eminent utility of voluntary associations for the promotion of literature and science, and the advantages which such associations enjoy, compared with those that may appertain to any enterprises by single individuals, are generally known and duly appreciated. When these associations are guided by the zeal of investigation, stimulated by the combined ambition and intelligence and intellect of many members, they may perform in a few years, more than ages of individual, unassociated exertion could produce. In the

investigations of science, the collision of opinion is indispensable to the march of knowledge; and when discussion is attended with candor, the hall of argument and debate, becomes the best possible school of literary philosophy. Anxious for the diffusion of knowledge, we feel a high interest in the prosperity of every institution whose object it is to collect and to spread the treasures of mind. Real and practical instruction, may be expected only of real talents, and practical ability; and we have formed high expectations of the Literary and Philosophical Society of New-York.

The following Circular Letter, which has called forth these remarks, will make known the objects of this society; and we take this occasion to express our wishes for its most complete success. Having, with much labor, trod the same ground, and collected, as we suppose, a large mass of valuable information, we tender all this to the Society, as the only offering at present in our power.

Circular Letter of the Literary and Philosophical Society, of New-York; on the subject of a statistical account of the state of New-York.

New-York, February 15, 1815.

SIR,

The Literary and Philosophical Society of New-York, (which was incorporated at the last session of the legislature, and which was instituted to cultivate the most useful branches of knowledge, to stimulate into activity the literature and talents of the community, and to obtain a mass of information, which may have a tendency to elevate the literary character, and subserve the best interests of our country,) are desirous of collecting materials for a statistical account of the United States, and more particularly of the state of New-York. With this view, they respectfully solicit your prompt and pointed attention to the following subjects, or to such of them, as you are conversant with, or as may fall within the range of your observation.

1. The name, (and its origin,) of the town or county in which you reside—its situation, extent and number of acres—the history of its settlement—the number, general character, and condition of the first settlers, and from what part of the world; the circumstances and causes of the settlement—the time of their arrival—the encouragement and authority under which they came; by what means the lands were obtained from the Indians, whether by conquest or purchase—and the nature of the grants or patents of land—the government from whence they proceeded—the latitude and longitude of any remarkable place in your county.

2. The Indians that formerly inhabited your town or county; their number, condition, customs, manners, language, mythology, battles, burying-places, monuments, forts, weapons, utensils, and any other traces of their settlement; their history, migrations, traditions, character, trade, controversies, wars, and treaties; their names of places, and the signification, and their present state.

3. Nature of the soil, mountains, hills, valleys, plains, caverns, rocks, lakes, ponds, rivers, islands, streams, cataracts, mineral and medicinal springs, aqueducts—the changes in mountains, lakes, rivers, and streams—the quality of water—the nature and composition of rocks, and their position—whether in strata or otherwise—inclined, or horizontal; the strata observed in digging wells: petrefactions—shells.

4. Mines—minerals—fossils; quarries of stone, and particularly flint, slate, soap-stone, marble, lime-stone, marl, gypsum, sulphur, iron, copper, lead, silver, plumbago, salt, nitre, and ochres of various kinds: their distance from navigable water.

5. Trees of different kinds, and their uses for ornament, fuel, fences, house and ship-building: the original growth of wood, and the variations on successive cuttings; whether plenty or scarce, increasing or decreasing, and the causes: the best means of increasing the quantity, and improving the quality.

6. Besides wood, other fuel, such as coal, turf, or peat; the quantity and quality of each—distance from navigable water—increase or decrease, and price of the different kinds.

The state of agriculture; the price of land, of provisions and of labour; the kinds of grain produced, quantity on an acre, and total quantity in each year; the quantity of grain, meal, and flour exported; the quantity of flax and hemp raised and exported; the most approved and profitable mode of cultivating those productions: value of articles consumed at home; quantity and value of the whole produce.

8. The native and imported grasses; the quantity of each kind produced on an acre; the proportion of meadow to arable lands; the improvement of the country by irrigation, draining and diking.

9. Manures; the different kinds, and their effects; the best time and mode of applying and increasing them, and of preparing them for particular crops.

10. The best seed time, and harvest time; the best time and mode of preparing lands for seed—of extirpating weeds, and of preserving grains from insects; the effects of a change of seeds; the most approved rotation of crops; remarkable instances of good and bad seasons: unusual failure of crops; the known or supposed causes, and the temperature of the seasons at the time.

11. Fences: the materials and modes of erecting them; the best modes of improving them, and the introduction of substitutes for those used; modes of cultivation; implements of husbandry; teams.

12. Number of sheep, swine, neat cattle, and horses; and the best mode of multiplying and improving them, and of preventing their destruction from disease or other causes.

13. Fruit trees, and esculent vegetables; the best kinds, and best modes of improving, cultivating and preserving them; the state of gardening; the quantity and quality of cider, beer, wine and spirits made, and how made.

14. The state of manufactures ; the kinds, quantity, and quality made in families, and manufactories : the history of any useful manufacture, including its increase and decline, and the causes ; the quantity, quality, and value of articles manufactured for domestic use, and for sale abroad ; useful machines for abridging labor and improving manufactures.

15. The state of the highways ; common and turnpike roads and bridges ; harbors, ferries, banks, villages, towns, and cities, and their police.

16. Trade and commerce ; quantity and kinds of foreign articles consumed ; amount of exports and imports ; the history and state of boat and ship-building ; the number of boat-men and seamen, and of ships and vessels of different kinds.

17. Fisheries : the kinds, quantity, and value of fish ; the mode of curing and taking them, and the market ; an account of the different species of fishes in streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and salt-water.

18. Wild animals now or heretofore known ; their increase or decrease, and the cause ; serpents, tortoises, and other amphibious animals ; quadrupeds, insects, or bones of the animal called the mammoth, or of any other unknown animals.

(To be concluded in the next Number.)

ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS,

Delivered to the School of Literature and the Arts, at Cincinnati, Nov. 23, 1814.

(Concluded from page 27.)

It requires but little reflection on the comparative influence of these causes, and those, operating among a people regulated by a confirmed system of laws and customs, where the national character is uniform and the authority of precedent indisputable, to perceive, that the developements of mind which they effect, are on very different principles ; and that the former have many advantages over the latter. To illustrate their relative effects by a metaphor, it may be said, that the operations of intellect, in an old country, are like the waters of a deep canal, which, flowing between artificial banks, pursue an equable and uniform course ; while in a new country, they resemble the stream which cuts its own channel in the wilderness ; rolls successively in every direction ; has a current, alternately swift and slow ; is frequently shallow ; but always free, diversified and natural. The former is eminently useful for a single purpose—the latter can be made subservient to many.

For these differences, gentlemen, an additional reason may be assigned. Old states are abundant in the means of imparting elementary knowledge ; new ones, in occasions for applying it practically. This is pre-eminently the case in the natural sciences, and to these chiefly I propose to advert. The larger and more common objects of a country are soon described ; but these are not always the most wonderful or numerous. Productions exhibiting great complexity of structure, and connected with each

other and with man by very surprising and complicated relations, are frequently minute, or neglected. In Great Britain, the strata, which had for centuries sustained the footsteps of successive tribes of geologists, have recently yielded, to the observations of Mr. William Smith, results equally new and interesting. In France, the vicinity of Paris afforded to Jussieu, more than a hundred new plants, after having been explored for forty years by the penetrating eye of Tournefort. More recently, the environs of the same city, for a thousand years the metropolis of the empire of physical science, have rewarded the genius and industry of Cuvier, with a rich museum of quadruped remains, the living archetypes of which the world cannot at this time furnish. If, in Europe, such enviable conquests were reserved for the naturalists of the present day, what vast acquisitions may not be made in the region of Ohio, where the germs of civilization have not been planted more than half a century !

On this subject, gentlemen, our enthusiasm can scarcely rise to excess. We are surrounded by a boundless region, redundant in objects the most novel and inviting—where the strong may exhaust their mightiest energies ; and the weak may find, in the luxuriapce of the harvest, a substitute for strength—where gleanings is neither necessary nor practicable, and the time elsewhere employed in search of fruitful fields, is devoted to selection in the midst of universal plentitude. But let us descend to particulars.—The climate of this country exhibits many singular phenomena : To note and compare them with those of other climates, and thereby to ascertain the laws peculiar to each and common to all, are objects of great interest to the Meteorologist, and remain to be accomplished. To observe the symptoms peculiar to our diseases, investigate their causes, and assign their remedies ; to mark the succession of epidemics, and point out the means of preventing endemics, are duties of the first consequence, which the physicians of this country have yet to perform. To analyze and compare the varieties in our soil, and assign to each its appropriate species of culture ;—to ascertain the extent and diversities of the great calcareous strata which support this region, classify their marine exuviae, and investigate their marbles, their saline deposits and metallurgic precipitates ; to explore the tracts of sandstone which are occasionally found, and bring to light their beds of coal ; to survey and disintegrate our extensive alluvions, determine the process of their formation, their richness in iron ore, in copperas, alum, clays and ochres, their antiquity, and their vegetable and animal remains ;—to collect and arrange specimens of the granite, mica-slate, gneiss and other primitive stones, which, detached from their kindred strata in the depths of the earth, are here scattered over the surface in profusion ; to discover the region from which they were derived, and assign the species of convulsion which transported them hither ;—to examine and point out, to the infirm and disordered, those mineral springs which possess a healing power ;—and lastly, to analyze the waters of our salines, and increase their utility, by extracting

from them, the sulphates of soda and magnesia, with other valuable medicines, are objects which offer to the Geologist and Chemist, and to society generally, a recompence of the highest order. To discover, examine and describe the plants peculiar to this region; to compare its general botany with that of other countries between the same parallels; to determine the latitudes of certain plants common to this and other states; to investigate and bring into notice such of our indigenous vegetables as would be useful in medicine and the arts; to search for species, which, by proper cultivation, would become articles of nourishment; and lastly, to enrich our pastures with some of the numerous grasses which adorn our fertile prairies, would immortalize the names of a greater number of Botanists than the United States can at present boast. Finally, our Zoology, in the classes of quadrupeds and birds, would not furnish much novelty; but in the departments containing the more imperfect animals, many curiosities might unquestionably be found. Our fishes, reptiles, insects and vermes remain to be examined; and promise to those who undertake it, the reward of a distinguished reputation.

These, gentlemen, are some of the desiderata in our Natural History. Their number, variety and magnitude are scarcely surpassed by those of any country of the earth. They are at once the objects and stimuli of industry, the springs of ambition, and the fuel of enthusiasm.

To the Naturalist, they furnish the means not only of applying, but of extending, correcting and improving his elementary knowledge.

To the Philosopher of expanded views, they offer a theme for the sublimest contemplation. Directing his eye to the strata on which he treads, their marine origin is obvious, and he is instantly carried back in astonishment, to the era, when this great region, now overshadowed by lofty forests or embellished with farms and villages, presented nothing but a deep and interminable waste of waters. While eagerly attentive to the process, by which the habitations of its animals were converted into stone, at the bottom of this ocean, he is interrupted and suddenly called to speculate on the causes which produced its entire dispersion. The surface of the new made earth being exposed to view, his curiosity is excited by the formation of rivers. Where the grand and stately Missouri, Ohio and Mississippi now roll their currents, he sees nothing but depressions, abounding in ponds and morasses.—Swelled by copious rains, he perceives these waters surmount their barriers, and accumulate in the south, until by their irresistible weight, all obstacles are borne down, and the impetuous torrent mingles with the ocean. Descending from this period, he is occupied in contemplating the plants and animals of the new continent. Where submarine groves of red coral but lately grew, he sees forests of majestic oak arise. Where the sponge attached its slender forms, he perceives the luxuriant *maize** shoot forth, to nourish future nations. The tracts which were

* The Indian name for Corn?

once encumbered with myriads of shell-fish, he now sees verdant with shrubs and herbage, infested with the rattle-snake and wolf; enlivened with deer and elk, or pressed by the gigantic forms of the elephant and mammoth, long since extinct. Lastly, in the lapse of time he is brought to contemplate the arrival of *man*.—Observe his progress from the north-west, his temporary locations by the way, and more lasting settlements on the banks of the Ohio. His enclosures of earth for permanent residence—compounds for the erection of temples—embankments for defence; and his manufactures of clay and shells, of stone and copper, constituting the achme of his perfection in the arts. Finally, to the unwilling view is presented the gloomy spectacle of exterminating wars, and decline in civilization; with his ultimate degradation into the present savage, his exile to some distant country, or entire annihilation.

Such gentlemen, is the series of amazing and inexplicable events, which this country presents for examination; and which cannot fail to attract much of our attention. There are, however, many other subjects, which, if less brilliant, are of equal or greater utility. Whatever relates to the improvement of our agriculture, manufactures and commerce; to the perfection of our political and social institutions; to the economics, statistics and history of our infant state, is of the greatest consequence. But I have only time to expatiate on the last a single moment. Were the most intelligent young men of Ohio interrogated concerning the Indian war which closed in 1796, they could scarcely do more than relate, that Harmar was repulsed; that St. Clair was disastrous; and that Wayne conquered. With those details in which all *true* knowledge consists, they have no acquaintance, nor can they at present obtain it. With the schemes and stratagems, the inroads, murders and plundering of the enemy; with the cruel and insidious co-operation of Great Britain; the extensive combinations among the tribes, and their ferocious perseverance; with the captivities and suffering of our mothers and sisters; the watchfulness and intrepidity of our fathers and brethren; the hardships and courage, the defeats and victories of our troops; the character of our commanders, and the expenditures of our government, during that predatory and barbarous war, most of us are less acquainted, than with the campaigns of Bonaparte or Alexander.

To collect from the surviving actors in those tragical scenes, and from other authentic sources, the materials necessary for a true and minute history of that period, would be an undertaking worthy of an older institution than ours. Those who accomplish it, will appease the manes of many neglected heroes slain in battle; they must receive the gratitude of society, for supplying a great desideratum, and in future times will be honored, as the fathers of our history.

Gentlemen of the town—

The members of the School of Literature and the Arts solicited the honor of your company this evening, to exhibit before you

a specimen of their labors ; and to make you acquainted with the plan and objects of their humble association. They have done this, fearless of the imputation of vanity, for the sole purpose of engaging your good will towards an institution, which, if continued, may, under able guidance, be made of public utility.

That you will not withhold the cheering reward of commendation, when their labors deserve it, your conduct this evening, with your general character, is an ample pledge. With that encouragement, they will diligently fan the spark that has been kindled, until it shall rise into a more bright and durable flame.

MECHANIC ARTS.

Cursory Observations on the ordinary construction of WHEEL-CARRIAGES : with an attempt to point out their defects, and to show how they may be improved.

(Concluded from page 40.)

It will have been perceived that I propose a considerable addition to the height of carriage-wheels ;—and to remedy the inconvenience arising from this, I use a crooked, or what the coach-makers propose to call a cranked axle, such as is shown in figure 1, resting the load on the crank, below the direct or right line of the axes of the wheels. The figure will be perfectly understood, and words may be spared. The height of the wheels is 7 feet, and the crank of the axle 15 inches. The shafts, attached to the axle at a,* are connected with it by the joints e e, which allow the axle to move freely back and forth when the carriage is in motion, and to adjust itself to the various positions required by the laws of gravity. But this is more particularly explained in figure 2 ; and I will only observe here that while the carriage is in motion, on roads of the common unevenness of surface, this crank will be constantly changing its actual position, as respects the axes of the wheels : because its relative position to these axes, is all the while adapting itself to a kind of compound line of gravity, by which it will hang nearly in the direction of that line. This line of gravity is always intermediate, between the horizontal line of progression, and the natural perpendicular of gravity ; and results from the well known laws of gravity applied to moving bodies. In the case of carriage-wheels, it may be called a compound line of gravity, resulting from the nature of their peculiar motion. It never falls perpendicularly under the axes, only when the wheels are at rest ; and then the crank in the above axle, which sustains the load, hangs perpendicularly under them. If the load be light, and the motion slow, over an even surface, this variable line of gravity will fall but little forward of the perpendicular ; but always some, as shall be explained. If, on the contrary, the load be heavy, the motion rapid, and the road uneven or rough, the line of gravity will fall very considerably forward of the perpendicular, and the crank will hang forward in

* See also fig. 2, p. 39, where the parts are designated by the same letters. The wheels have 16 spokes.

that direction. On ascending a hill, where the resistance is great, even though the motion be slow, the crank hangs forward in the same proportion; that is, always according to the resistance to the motion of the carriage, and the power applied to overcome that resistance.

Descending the hill, where the load presses the carriage upon the horse, if he hold back, the action is reversed and the crank hangs behind the perpendicular, true to this compound line of gravity, which now falls there: Because, to the weight of the load, is now added the resistance of the horse's strength, actually pushing backward, and the weight of the whole is increased by this addition. That the crank can never hang exactly in the perpendicular line, when the carriage is moved by a power attached to it, will be manifest on considering that the impulse must act here, before it can do so to move the carriage.

This reasoning I believe to be undoubtedly correct, and the inferences as plain as they are important. These will be more particularly explained when considering figure 2.

This figure, like the other, requires no explanation. It is a perspective view of the same carriage, having the same proportions, but with the left wheel taken off, to render the view more distinct and plain. The crank of the axle is here shown in its whole length, and the several parts in their natural adjustment and proportions. The dotted lines show the variations of the line of gravity, and this falls sometimes before, and sometimes behind the perpendicular.

Suppose a load, with some obstacle to the motion of the wheels, and a power applied sufficient to draw the crank of the axle forward, say 1 foot: Now as this has advanced the point on which the load is suspended 1 foot beyond the perpendicular line of gravity, the actual line of gravity must be advanced in proportion, and the wheel will overcome the obstacle with proportionate ease. So, on descending an inclined plane, or hill, where the weight of the carriage forces it upon the horse; as the line of gravity is thus carried back of the perpendicular, and falls nearer the point of contact, the pressure upon the horse is lessened by this application of the principle of a variable line of gravity.

The objection that I have sometimes heard urged against high wheels, that they would throw more mud and water than those of the common height, is founded in error. The throwing of mud is occasioned by the rapidity of rotary motion; and the forewheels of a coach, being smaller, have to revolve more rapidly, and of course throw more mud than the hind-wheels. The larger the wheel, the less frequent are its revolutions; and the larger it be, the less mud and water will it take up in these revolutions, and of course will throw the less. This is self-evident, as, also, and as a necessary consequence of the preceding, that the larger the wheel, the less the depth that it will sink in the mud: because that, the smaller the wheel, the more sharp is the curve of its

circle, presented to the ground which is to sustain it. And this difference is far greater than is generally imagined. It may readily be demonstrated, by balancing the weight equally between the fore and hind wheels of a coach, or other carriage, having wheels of a considerable difference of diameters. Nor will the fore-wheels, when once sunk into the mud, rise out of it with the same ease, as is perfectly manifest. On advancing to harder ground, its resistance would raise the hind wheels first, did they not track after the other.

From the National Intelligencer of July 1.

COLD WATER!

Few summers elapse here, in which there are not instances of persons being affected by drinking cold water. In some seasons, four or five persons have died suddenly from this cause—one instance occurred the last week: at which time the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at 90 deg. This mortality falls chiefly upon the laboring part of the community, who seek to allay their thirst by drinking the water from the pumps in the streets, and who are too impatient or too ignorant to use the necessary precautions for preventing its morbid or deadly effects upon them. These accidents seldom happen except when the mercury rises above 85. Three circumstances generally concur to produce disease or death, from drinking cold water. 1st. The patient is extremely warm. 2nd. The water is extremely cold. And 3d. A large quantity of it is taken into the body. The danger from drinking the cold water is always in proportion to the degrees of combination which occur in the three circumstances that have been mentioned.

The following symptoms generally follow, where cold water has been taken, under the above circumstances, into the body.

In a few minutes after the patient has swallowed the water, he is affected by a dimness of sight, he staggers in attempting to walk, and unless supported, falls to the ground; he breathes with difficulty; a rattling is heard in his throat; his nostrils and cheeks expand and contract in every act of respiration; his face appears suffused with blood, and of a livid color; his extremities become cold, and his pulse imperceptible; and unless relief is speedily obtained, the disorder terminates in death in a few minutes.

This description includes only the less common cases of the effects of drinking a large quantity of cold water, when the body is preternaturally heated. More frequently, patients are seized with acute spasms in the breast and stomach.

I know of but one certain remedy for this disease, and that is liquid laudanum. The doses of it, as in other cases of spasm, should be proportioned to the violence of the disease. From a tea spoonful to near a table spoonful have been given in some instances, before relief has been obtained. Where the powers of life appear to be suddenly suspended, the same remedies should be used, which have been so successfully employed in recovering persons supposed to be dead from drowning.

If neither the voice of reason, nor the fatal examples of those who have perished from this cause, are not sufficient to produce restraint in drinking a large quantity of cold water, when the body is preternaturally heated, then let me advise to

1st. Grasp the vessel, out of which you are about to drink, for a minute, or longer, with both your hands. This will abstract a portion of heat from the body, and impart it at the same time to the cold liquor, provided the vessel is made of metal, glass, or earth; for heat follows the same laws, in many instances, in passing through bodies, with regard to its relative velocity, which we observe to take place in electricity.

2nd. If you are not furnished with a cup, and are obliged to drink by bringing your mouth in contact with the stream which issues from a pump or a spring, always wash your hands and face previously to your drinking, with a little of the cold water. By receiving the shock of the water first upon those parts of the body, a portion of its heat is conveyed away, and the vital parts are thereby defended from the action of the cold.

These observations are designed as a caution to the ignorant and imprudent, against the fatal effects of cold water at this season of the year; and should they be the means of preserving one life, I shall be amply rewarded for my trouble.

June 26.

MEDICUS.

NEW PRINTING MACHINE.

A machine has been employed for the first time in printing a Morning Newspaper. *The Times* affirmed, that the honor of the invention was due to a Saxon, of the name of Kœnig. *The Norwich Mercury* asserts, that the palm of ingenuity is due to countrymen of our own; Mr. Donkin, of Bermondsey, and Mr. R. M. Bacon, the printer of that provincial journal.

To support this allegation, it is shewn, that these parties obtained a patent for their invention in December, 1813, and a prospectus descriptive of the nature thereof is subjoined. This paper is too long for us to copy, but the following extract will prove that it deserves attention:—

“The objects proposed by this machine are—

“First, Mechanical precision of operation.

“Second, A great increase of the speed of printing.

“Third, The saving of skill, labour, and expense.

“To these intents, an entirely new principle has been adopted. Continuous has been substituted for interrupted motion, and all the single parts of laying the sheet, taking and distributing the ink, beating the form, and performing the pressure, are carried on at one and the same instant, without the intervention of a moment's delay in any of them.”

Mr. Bacon says, that by this machine 24 sheets per minute, or 1440 sheets per hour, may be struck off.

We have also notice of another patent machine, for printing, which is quite ready, and which is said to be less complex, more speedy, and to require less room.

It cannot be doubted, but that these improvements must be highly serviceable to the art of printing, and particularly to the periodical press.

Without aiming to detract, in the slightest degree, from the merit of those who have lately brought forward this admirable invention in London and at Norwich, it being very possible that two or more persons may unconsciously devise a similar plan, we feel it due to the town of Plymouth, to state, that one of its natives, a gentleman of considerable scientific attainments, discovered a machine of the same kind about ten years since, which has been, and still is, used by a tradesman in the town for printing his bills. Fifteen hundred of those are worked off with ease in an hour; and the machine requires nothing more than the application of greater powers, to effect all performed by the invention before alluded to.

Eu. Mag.

MALT LIQUORS.

If there is no peculiar propriety in copying the following article, it can do no harm to my readers, and will give no offence—should there be a peculiar propriety in calling the attention of the public on this side the Atlantic to the same subject, the article may give a little offence and may do a great deal of good.

EDITOR.

To the Editor of the European Magazine.

SIR,

IN the survey of Surry, published in 1805, is to be seen a full and complete developement of the various ingredients which were then substituted for malt and hops, by the brewers of porter and ale, not only in London and its vicinity, but throughout the kingdom, which ingredients were furnished to the latter by certain men, calling themselves brewers' chemists. This exposition, by arresting the attention of the great corn growers, at length drew from the Legislature the Act of the 51st Geo. III. prohibiting, under a penalty of 500*l.* any brewer of porter or ale from having in his possession, honey, liquorice, vitriol, quassia, coculus indicus, grains of paradise, Guinea pepper, &c. &c. for the purpose of making use of any or all of these articles as substitutes for malt and hops.

However necessary the Act in question became, in order to put an effectual stop to a system of brewing, which was striking at the very foundation of the agriculture of the country, rendering, in a measure, abortive, the exertions of above one million and a half of persons, who are daily employed therein; yet it became doubly so, when we consider the quality and effect of those ingredients, operating every hour of the day upon the constitutions of perhaps six or seven millions of people: for it has been proved by the testimony of some of the ablest medical practitioners, that the major part of those ingredients, and others (which might be added) not named in the Act, are so perfectly deleterious, that however minutely their particles may be separated in reducing them into a compound, and finally incorporating them into the great body of the wort, yet no process

short of neutralizing them can prevent (by frequent use) their operating upon the animal functions in some way, and at certain times, highly injurious to the constitution.

Such then being the state of the case, what is become of this Act of the 51st Geo. III so recently passed? Is it already become a dead letter in our statute-books? or is it worth no man's while to look after the brewers? For no man shall persuade me that the porter and ale of the present day are prepared from malt and hops only, except a colouring of burnt sugar for the form—I say no man shall persuade me that malt and hops are the only ingredients used, because, independent of other reasons, it has been observed by those accustomed to drink different brewers' beer, that while one sort shall have a sharp acid flavour, differing altogether from the fine bitter of hops, and acting as a cathartic, another shall be as perfectly restraining; so that you may find in this metropolis as many varieties of beer as of brewers.

The truth then is, that drugs, in a greater or less proportion, are still introduced into the composition of our daily beverage, in spite of the Act of Parliament, destructive of the constitution of the people, subversive of the agriculture of the kingdom, and injurious to the revenue.

Subjoined is a list of the beer brewed by 12 houses in London, from July 1813, to July 1814.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
Barclay	262,467
Meux	165,628
Hanbury	145,121
Whitbread	141,104
H. Meux	100,776
Calvert	100,391
Combe	95,389
Goodwin	62,019
Elliott	45,162
Taylor	42,126
Hollingsworth	30,252
Cocks	30,162
Total	1,220,606

THE CAPITOL.

“The National Intelligencer says;—“We feel great satisfaction in being enabled to announce the rapid progress in the repair of the public buildings in this city. The most judicious arrangements have been made for the speedy accomplishment of this important object. Responsible and skilful undertakers have contracted with the commissioners, to deliver completely finished, on or before the first day of January next, the two public offices, so necessary to accommodate the great departments of the government. Capt. Hoban, the architect, who in the first instance planned and directed the building of the President's house, heretofore so justly admired, is assiduously employed in its restoration. Mr. Latrobe, another architect, eminent

throughout the United States for his taste, science and judgment, has under his superintendence that superb and massy constructure, the capitol. The activity and energy displayed at all the public edifices, while most gratifying to the national feeling, must afford particular delight to every citizen of Washington, and of the adjacent towns and country—an activity which promises to restore the capitol and President's house to their former splendor, with increased strength, durability and convenience, and induces a confident expectation, that in less than two years not a vestige will be visible of the ruthless violence of our late enemy, so disgraceful to the British arms, so little injurious to the generous American nation, which will soon magnanimously forget in peace, the cruel injuries inflicted on their metropolis in war, if future wrongs shall cease."

The following *ingenious* method of employment for the American Navy, was devised in Great Britain during; or at the close of the late war. We copy it from the Tradesman, or Commercial Magazine for February last, published in London.

DISCOVERY OF AN EMPLOYMENT FOR THE AMERICAN NAVY.

To the Editor of the Tradesman, or Commercial Magazine.

SIR,

I must candidly confess that, during the late war, the American Lilliputian navy has been uncommonly active. I cannot therefore reconcile it to my ideas of justice, that the very able men who have so gallantly fought their ships, should be all at once deprived of employment; permit me, therefore, through the medium of your miscellany, to propose a method by which the American navy would be kept in constant activity; and at the same time conferring a most essential benefit on the whole world.

I cannot however wholly claim the meed of originality; for I acknowledge myself wholly indebted to Dr. Darwin for the idea, and which is contained in a note in Part I. Canto 1. of *The Botanic Garden*.

"If the nations who inhabit this hemisphere of the globe, instead of destroying their seamen and exhausting their wealth in unnecessary wars, could be induced to unite their labours to *navigate the immense masses of ice* into the more southern oceans, two great advantages would result to mankind; *the tropical countries would be much cooled by their solution, and our winters, in this latitude, would be rendered much milder for perhaps a century or two, till the masses of ice again became enormous.*"

Now, Mr. Editor, I recommend that the American ships shall be sent to the north and south poles; with orders for each to tow to the tropics a large *island of ice*; where it must be left to melt, and COOL THE CREATION. Two or three of these voyages may be made in a season; and though the wages of sailors, the expense of provisions, with the wear and tear of ships, will be

considerable ; yet what are these things when placed in competition with the benevolence of the scheme ? The poor negroes who have been forever scorched by the sun, till they are burnt as black as a boot, will grow cool as cucumbers ; leave off sweating ; and probably, in three or four thousand years, will lose that *hago* which they now carry, and smell as sweet as white folks.

In the next place, when the ice is all towed away from the poles, circumnavigators will be able to sail round the globe the other way ; letters will then arrive from the antipodes twice, where we now only receive them once.

Thirdly, The fish in the hot seas will be deliciously regaled with something equivalent to ice punch ; which will be an enjoyment as pleasant to them as it is new. The following stanza will then be no longer fashionable in that quarter of the world ; and which was composed under the following circumstances : a poet, straining hard to reach the acme of sublimity, wrote the following lines—

“ The sun’s perpendicular height
Illumin’d the depths of the sea,

and not being able to proceed, he left his garret, leaving his MS. on the table ; a wag entered soon afterwards, and finished the couplet thus—

The fishes, beginning to sweat,
Cry’d, ‘D—n it, how hot we shall be.’ ”

Fourthly, When the warm climates have become thoroughly cooled, the woollen trade will extend to a vast portion of the globe, the inhabitants of which now go naked ; and the cotton and linen trade will also experience the like benefits, from softening the atmosphere of the frigid zones. If, however, this last advantage should savour too much of “ British influence,” I will yield the point.

Fifthly, It is as likely as not, that some sharp-sighted philosopher may take his passage with Commodore Rodgers, and hunt out the *light in the north* ; or, as it is called, the *aurora borealis*. This phenomenon has been supposed by many to spring from the icy regions ; and it would be not at all strange, if some one of the vessels should tow away the very cake of ice which contains it.

Sixthly, I think it altogether probable, that when the ice is all removed from the poles, whilst the moon goes from east to west, the sun will turn his course, and go from south to north. This will shorten the Greenland nights, and keep the passages for ever open.

I might go on to enumerate the advantages of this plan all day ; by shewing that in this trade free ships make free goods, &c. &c. but the above will convince any reasonable man of its wisdom and utility.

I hope Mr. Editor, you will transmit this plan across the Atlantic with all possible speed, as I expect in return the thanks of the whole American Navy.

I remain, Mr. Editor, Yours, &c.

An Admirer of Darwin.

From the National Intelligencer.

Thursday, June 29.

PALPABLE ARITHMETIC.

A gentleman of this place has invented a new method of calculation, which he calls by the above name. By it, the operations of multiplication, and of division, the raising of powers, and extraction of roots, to any number of places, can be performed much more expeditiously and correctly, than can be done by any of the common tables of Logarithms. For, in using Logarithms in multiplication, &c. in order to have the results correct, it is necessary they should be calculated to as many places of decimals, as there are figures in the product, &c.; that is, if the product should amount to 20 places of figures, and the table is only calculated to ten places of decimals, then one half of the figures in the product, answering to the sum of the Logarithms, will not be true; and, if a hundred places of figures were required in the product, 90 of them would be wrong. It is said, also, that he can by this method give the *true* product or quotient of a hundred figures by a hundred, in less than one hour; an operation quite impracticable by any other method yet discovered.

This invention will, no doubt, be very useful in Schools and Colleges, for examining the calculations of the students; for making tables of Logarithms to any number of places; for calculating compound interest for any number of years, and for every other purpose, where *large quantities* are required to be calculated with *great accuracy*.

The writer of this knows, that several of the ablest mathematicians in the city of New-York, and some of the most expert calculators in Arithmetic, have tested the unerring certainty of this method, and have pronounced it a great invention; and, for the sake of the calculating art, he is pleased to hear that the inventor is about to take out a patent, and make known to the public the principles of his invention.

The following observations on the Cotton Trade of Great Britain, extracted from a Biographical Memoir of Sir Robert Peel, M. P. published in Feb. last, may probably be interesting to our Readers.

" Lancashire is the great emporium of the cotton trade, and although the adjoining counties, and many parts of Scotland, participate in the trade, yet their combined amount is trifling, compared with its magnitude in this particular district. Providence certainly has not bestowed any large portion of fertile land in this part of the kingdom; but that deficiency has been amply compensated by a superabundance of coals, pure water, and powerful streams; without which factories cannot flourish. The barrenness of the soil is also concealed by the great number of handsome houses and neat cottages that attract the eye in every direction. The extent to which the cotton trade may be carried cannot be mentioned with certainty; as the uses to which it is applied, and the various parts of the world into which it is in-

troduced, have multiplied, and are multiplying so rapidly, as to afford strong grounds for hope, that it has not yet grown much beyond the state of youth ; in its effects also, in a national point of view, it conduces highly to the national prosperity ; the capital alone employed in this trade, and the different branches connected with it, amounting to at least twenty millions sterling ; and the people employed in, and deriving support from it, being no fewer than eight hundred thousand ; fifteen thousand of whom are in the service of Sir Robert Peel.

The rapid progress of the cotton trade was greatly aided by ingenious improvements invented by the unrivalled talents of Sir Richard Arkwright ; but his complex machinery has been so much simplified, and, at the same time rendered so much more productive, that it now derives the greatest share of its practicable utility from the ingenuity of other hands.

In the year 1780, the quantity of cotton wool imported into Great Britain amounted to five millions of pounds weight ; but since that period, taking the general average, it has been from forty to fifty millions annually ; very little of which immense quantity is exported from hence in an unimproved state. Supposing then every pound of cotton to be worth, on an average, when imported, eighteen pence, and when consumed at home, or sent abroad, in a manufactured state, that it is worth eight shillings, the advantage to the nation will not be much less than fourteen millions sterling per annum. How much of this sum may reach his Majesty's Exchequer, we are at a loss to say ; but Sir Robert Peel's house has paid, in some annual instances, more than forty thousand pounds to the Excise Office, on printed goods, which may afford some criterion for an opinion of its probable amount. When our local habits are duly appreciated, as well as our knowledge, capital, and habits, it will be seen, that this great national object affords a resource of a permanent nature, likely to increase, and promises to operate powerfully in our favor in the commercial scale ; its furtherance and progress are chiefly to be ascribed to Sir Robert Peel, to whom the nation is greatly indebted for his promotion of the labour employed in producing articles of manufacture to accommodate the want of foreign nations.

FROM THE LONDON COMMERCIAL MAGAZINE.

Method of Preserving Fruit, of different kinds, in a Fresh State for Twelve Months.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,

Accept the following receipt: having repeatedly tried it, I can vouch for its efficacy.

It is necessary to pull the fruit two or three days before you begin the process ; take care not to bruise the fruit, and to pull them before they are quite ripe. Spread them on a little clean straw to dry them. This is best done on a parlour floor ; leaving the windows open, to admit fresh air, so that all the moisture on the skin of the fruit may be perfectly dried away.

Pears and apples take three days; strawberries only twenty-four hours.

The latter should be taken up on a silver three-pronged fork, and the stalk cut off without touching them, as the least pressure will cause them to rot. Take only the largest and fairest fruit. This is the most tender and difficult fruit to preserve; but, if done with attention, will keep six months: there must not be more than a pound in each jar:

Choose a common earthen jar, with a stopper of the same, which will fit close; the pears and apples, when sorted as before, must be wrapped up separately in soft wrapping paper; twist it closely about the fruit; then lay clean straw on the bottom, and a layer of fruit; then a layer of straw; and so on, till your vessel be full; but you must not put more than a dozen in a jar; if more, their weight will bruise those at the bottom.

Peaches and apricots are best stored up, wrapped each in soft paper, and fine shred paper between the fruit, and also the layers. Grapes must be stored in the jar with fine shred paper, which will keep one from touching the other as much as possible. Five or six bunches are the most which should be put into one jar; if they be large, not so many; for it is to be understood, that whenever you open a jar, you must use that day all the fruit that is in it.

Strawberries, as well as peaches, should have fine shred paper under and between them, in the place of straw, which is only to be used for apples and pears. Put in the strawberries and the paper, layer by layer. When the jar is full, put on the stopper, and have it well luted round, so as perfectly to keep out the air: a composition of rosin, or grafting wax, is best: let none of it get within the jar, which is to be placed in a temperate cellar. Be sure to finish your process in the last quarter of the moon.

Do not press the fruit; as any juice running out would spoil all below.

H. R.

NAUTICAL ANECDOTE.

A seaman in a late war, under the command of a worthy captain, ran from his quarters; the stigmas thrown out by his shipmates so harassed the man, that his life was a burthen to him. An opportunity of a second action soon occurred; the same man was made captain of a gun, and behaved with as much intrepidity as any seaman in the ship. This proves Lord Rochester's observation—

"That all men would be cowards if they durst."

SOMETHING SINGULAR.

MESSRS. EDITORS,

There is at this time at Mr. George Deaver's, in Harford County, Maryland, near Hill's Cross Roads, a calf only three months old, which was kept in a yard with a ewe and a lamb—the ewe died when the calf was about six weeks old, when the lamb took to sucking the calf, which now gives a sufficiency of milk to support the lamb, and the calf appears as fond of it as though she were its dam.

Balt. Pat.

From the Maryland Star.

Three men from Kent Island were fishing for Drum off Love Point, in about 25 feet water, and having been there a considerable time without success, at length Haycock, one of the party, felt something move his line, and upon drawing it in, found that he had brought up a large earthen jug, and his hook, with the bait, within it; which being unable to extricate, he broke the jug in pieces; when to his utter surprise and astonishment, he discovered a large catfish fourteen inches in length, which had been enveloped in the jug, and swallowed his hook with the bait. It is supposed the jug was lost from some vessel, and having settled at the bottom in a perpendicular situation, the fish entered it when small, and being attracted by something in it, or not being able to find its way out, continued there until grown too large to get out at its mouth; and the bait having accidentally fallen into it, was seized with avidity by the fish. The jug must have been a long time at the bottom, as there was very long grass, and several large oysters adhering to it.

Attested by

THOMAS GOODHAND,
HUGH LEGG,
SOLOMON HAYCOCK.

June 20th, 1815.

MILITARY ANECDOTE.

At the battle of Dettingen, one of our most esteemed regiments gave way on the first onset of the enemy, and every man retired with no small precipitation, a black trumpeter excepted, who kept blowing his trumpet until he was surrounded by the enemy and taken. After an exchange of prisoners, he returned to England, where he was so much noticed, that the proprietors of both theatres gave him each a free benefit. The same regiment and the same black hero exhibited at Fontenoy: the former regained their honor by astonishing acts of bravery, the latter, in the height of the engagement, turned his white steed suddenly, and left the field.

Being afterwards, before a court martial, desired to account for a behaviour so very different from that which gained him so much applause, he replied,—Reproach had made them desperate, which, at that time (meaning the time of engagement) was not his case.

How far his reply may be just we do not say, but his conduct agreed with the general opinion—that few men, however intrepid, have the same proportion of courage at all times.

Eu. Mag.

PROGRESS OF THE FINE ARTS.

Among the valuable discoveries almost daily made in this country, we notice an improvement in the art of engraving, for which a patent has lately been issued. This improvement consists in a new method of etching the ornaments or end pieces of bank notes, which, it is said will greatly increase the diffi-

culty of counterfeiting them, and at the same time, enable the most inexperienced eye with facility to distinguish between the real and counterfeit note. This new mode of engraving was invented by Mr. H. S. Tanner of Philadelphia; and a company has been formed in that city, in which he is concerned, for the purpose of executing every part of bank note plates with elegance and despatch. The specimen which we have seen certainly does the company much credit, and appears to us to possess a high degree of finish. It is contemplated, we are informed, to make the end pieces of all notes of a similar denomination exactly uniform, and those of different denominations with a slight degree of difference at one end, a circumstance which the multiplicity of bank notes is said to render absolutely necessary to prevent the unwary from being imposed on. No person who does not devote himself to the study of this subject can possibly make himself sufficiently acquainted with the almost infinite variety of notes now in circulation to prevent his suffering from counterfeits.

Nat. In.

THANKSGIVING.

A SERMON,* preached by the Rev. Dr. Blatchford, to the United Presbyterian Congregations of Lansingburgh and Waterford, on the day of the late National Thanksgiving, April 13, 1815, has been sent us by a friend, and perused with the highest interest. Nothing of the kind that we have seen of late is more excellent in its kind, and we earnestly recommend it to the attention of our readers. To us it appears the effect of a strange infatuation, when Christians insist on the noise and tumult of a procession, and a military show, as proper demonstrations of national gratitude and thanksgiving to the Almighty ! And while we have learnt to make allowances for most differences of opinion, we are particularly tenacious of our own opinion in this matter. From the noise and confusion of processions and parades, with drums, trumpets, and the long train of et ceteras, we have gladly turned to the house of prayer, and listened to the songs of praise and the exercises of Religion, as far better adapted to the solemn occasion. At least we have imagined this, while perusing the excellent Sermon before us, and we trust our readers will indulge in similar feelings and reflections. The following extracts are all that we can find room for.

"Thankfulness to God is a solemn duty."

This remark is intended to correct a mistake into which thousands are apt to run : for multitudes, in all ages, have considered days of thanksgiving, as seasons of feasting and carnal mirth. So the Israelites, when they had sacrificed to their idols, sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. This practice was consistent enough for idolators, but it cannot be suitable for the worshippers of the true God. Christians should know better. True thankfulness is immediately connected with humility. We are then most thankful, when we have upon our hearts the clearest perceptions of the divine character ; and every proper view of the glory of God and his perfections, will produce that solemnity which is characteristic of the duty. Thankfulness to God implies a *serious recognition of his mercies, with all the circumstances which add lustre to them.*

O happy people of America ! "Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good !"

* *Published by Webster's and Skinner's, Albany.*

Again consider the recent instance of divine goodness in suddenly, and unexpectedly, changing the rage of war into the tranquility of peace.

This blessing of heaven is prominent. Let us, that we may feel it, look at the evils of war, connected with the blessings of peace.—But where am I going?—Shall I trace back to the origin of the war, and pronounce concerning its policy, and its morality; whether it was just and necessary? Shall I look at the manner in which it was conducted, and give my opinion of the wisdom of our plans and points of operation? Shall I look at its termination, and pronounce concerning the terms of peace, whether we have obtained the objects of so tremendous a conflict?—No, I will not. * * *

But thank God we have peace! Yes, Brethren, we will thank God that we have peace. No longer does the hoarse trumpet call our legions to the embattled plain—no longer does the loud cannon utter its roar of destruction.—Our troops are returning to the habitudes of social life.—Our frontiers hail their opponents as their friends, nor fear the deadly incursion to drive them from their homes by the flames of their own dwellings.—Commerce is now flowing into its wonted channel.—Our wharves are crowded with busy scenes; and whatever depressions we may yet feel, the goodness of God hath given an energy, an enterprize to our country, which we trust, will at length overcome the disadvantages of the present moment, and that we shall yet arise a praise in the midst of the whole earth. May the guardian arm of Omnipotence surround us, and the presence of God be a glory in the midst of us! We dread now no foreign foe: let us beware of ourselves—our own bad passions—the rancor of party zeal, and whatever may embitter our blessings and impair our felicity. Let us look for moral principle and disinterested patriotism in our rulers, and be at peace among ourselves.

My Brethren, I have done. Upon these altars you offer your thanksgiving to God in the name of Jesus Christ, through whose righteousness and blood alone we have access to his throne. It is a righteous—a holy act: may God accept it at your hands, and whilst he records it in his remembrance, “Be ye for him,” and not for another; still bearing it upon your hearts, that those who love him keep his commandments.”

A TOUR THROUGH FRANCE.

(Concluded from page 38.)

While we had regarded, and conversed on the pompous mementos of ambition's fitful fever, in our way from Paris hither, the four fine bronze horses, taken by Bonaparte from Venice; had contemplated with aching sight, the lofty pillar, in imitation of Trajan's, covered with the detail of the usurper's victories, and, not unappropriately, those victories are engraved on the brass of the pieces of cannon he had taken: yet, with how much more interest, and with what different feelings did our eyes rest on that saloon, to which poor Marie Antoinette gave the appellation of the “Saloon of Peace!” This was her favourite apartment; and here, as Mr. Burke so elegantly remarks, I fancied I could see her “Like the morning star, irradiating the sphere in which she moved.”

My aunt and I stood some time in mute contemplation, as we were shewn the staircase by which the mob entered in October, 1789, for the purpose of assassinating the Queen. “How do such subjects,” said Lady Diana, turning to my brother, “wean our wishes from the dangerous heights of greatness.” She said no more: a tear trembled on the eye-lash of Henry, which, with mistaken shame, he dashed off, and affected a smile and shrug, which took no part in his real character. But when he turned from this spot, he, as well as ourselves, regarded, with a stoical and calm observation, the unparalleled extent of the grand gallery: it is two hundred and twenty-two feet long, thirty feet in breadth, and thirty-seven in height, and is lighted by seventeen windows; the roof is painted with the martial exploits of Louis XIV.

We inspected the opera-house; it is on a magnificent scale, but to me there seems a gloomy heavy kind of splendid melancholy to hang over it; nor can all the smiling groups here represented, of Health, Plenty and Peace,

chase away a kind of weariness and prejudice which all our party seemed to experience. The boxes appear dull and unsocial; their form is oval, and they are separated from each other by vaulted sections. Daniel Defoe says:—

“Wherever God erects a house of prayer,
“The Devil always builds a chapel there.”

But our transition was from the theatre to the chapel, and which is a superb monument of the munificence of Louis XIV.: it was finished in the year 1710. The piece of marble which forms the altar, is the most rare and exquisite in its kind ever seen; the orchestra is large enough to hold eighty persons. Wonderful to tell, this chapel has not suffered a single injury from the fury of the revolution, but remains in the same state as when Louis XVI. and his family used to frequent it.

The library is detached from the palace: with how much interest did we turn over the leaves of a few books, wherein were little marginal notes and observations in the hand-writing of Louis and Marie Antoinette! The Queen's chief studies seem to have been English novels translated into French.

We next visited the Park and Gardens: the latter are adorned with some very fine statues; but all our interest was engrossed by the inspection of Great and Little Trianon. At the former we saw the superb study of Bonaparte; in it was placed a costly sofa, covered with white satin, fringed with gold, and the letter N. multiplied, as one may say, in the most conspicuous situations: this served the *ci-devant* conqueror of Europe for a seat; but can we wonder at this ostentatious display of the letter N. on the sofa, when it was placed on the high altar of the church of Notre Dame, that the French, even at their devotions, might have their thoughts occupied chiefly with him?

We were shewn the elegant toilette of Maria Louisa, of gold!—Query, was not this that famous gold toilette, of which we have heard so much, belonging to Marie Antoinette? We have been credibly informed, that it passed into the possession of the Ex-Empress Josephine, therefore, most likely it became an imperial donation in the hands of the usurper.

Maria Louisa is extremely popular here, and her memory is cherished with enthusiastic affection: all good wives cite her as a pattern of conjugal love: and let not this be wondered at; her extreme youth, when first united to Bonaparte, warranted the opinion, that her heart was totally disengaged: he was the father of her child, and to use the words of my favourite and noble poet:—

“To her he might be gentleness.”

However, he certainly was very lucky in his wives: to Josephine he owed every thing, and her gentleness and forbearance deserved a better fate; her servants now sincerely lament her, and speak of her as the best and most indulgent of mistresses. Excuse this digression; and now I return to the Park and Gardens of Versailles.

The elegant pavillion of Maria Louisa, to which she and the little King of Rome took frequent excursions, rises like a fairy palace amidst the sylvan scene: her boudoir and dressing-room seem as if built and decorated by the hands of Genii and fairies. Here, the man, who seemed to delight only in scenes of war, would often retire, and repose from the toils of ambition, amidst the charms of conjugal and parental happiness; and here, we may imagine, that even his turbulent mind felt some moments of domestic pleasure in the quiet society of his wife and child.

Trianon was called in the twelfth century Triarum, and Louis XIV. purchased it of the Abbey of St. Genevieve, 1663. It has been called the “Region of Flowers,” from the profusion of those treasures of Flora, which abound in every part.

It is not in the power of the pen to describe the beauties of Little Trianon: a charming temple, dedicated to Love, stands in the midst of artificial rocks: a number of cottages, now falling to pieces, prove the former

rural beauty of the scene, and mark the charitable disposition of the unfortunate and elegant female who planned the adorning of this delicious spot. The surrounding gardens are laid out in the true English style; and the little elegant pavilion, paved with marble, the farm and mill, with the picturesque prospect of a country church, form an indescribable and interesting assemblage of objects, which to appreciate justly, it is requisite to behold.

After viewing the beauties of Le Petit Trianon, we quitted Versailles, and where, perhaps, you will think I have detained you too long. One evening last week, we all visited the Prescati, which is situated on the Boulevards, at the extremity of the Rue de la Loi. Nothing can be more tastefully fitted up than this little evening lounge; the entrance is by a gallery, lined with mirrors, which leads into a square, and large building, where, from divers apartments, you are furnished with refreshments: nothing is paid for entrance, but it is expected that the visitors will take some ice, orgeat, or sweetmeats; and by the profits arising therefrom, the proprietors are enabled to keep up the expense of this place of amusement. At the end of the principal walk in the garden, there are small pillars erected on each side, entwined with woodbine and passion flowers; you next arrive at a beautiful grotto; the walks are ornamented, as well as lighted, by statues, each of which holds a lamp in its hand. The most fashionable hour for visiting this place is at ten o'clock at night; the amusement consists in chatting with the friends we meet, drinking lemonade, or eating ices: and this evening lounge seems to be almost idolized by the Parisians.

We had truly a treat last night, at one of the assemblies, held at the house of the learned and witty Baroness de St—l. It was, indeed, "The feast of reason and the flow of soul." A small delightful concert was introduced, and gave a zest to the literary subjects which were continually started; while they were so various, and introduced with such a peculiar grace and cheerfulness by the accomplished hostess, that the evening flew away with a celerity we never before experienced in any other circle in Paris: the kindness and hospitality of this lady are extreme; and this I need not tell you, as you often experienced their effects during her welcome stay in England. We have just received a card of invitation to one of her dinner parties, which takes place in a fortnight.

After mention of this admirable woman, this true mirror of female learning, my pen cannot descend to trace any thing of the frivolous and motley scenes of public amusement in Paris.

EMILY.

CONTRASTED JOYS—A REAL FACT.

The Rev. James Harvey was once riding in a stage-coach with a gay young lady, who expatiated, in a very lively manner, upon the pleasures of the theatre. Indeed, (said she) I enjoy much happiness before I go, in anticipation; and when I am there, my pleasure is indescribable; and the recollection of the scene affords me much happiness the following day."

Mr. H. replied, "And is that all the happiness, madam, the theatre affords you? Is there not "one joy beside?" Have you forgotten *the happiness it will afford you in the hour of death?*

The youth, struck with the *scene of eternity*, which opened to her imagination, was brought under genuine conviction of sin, and the vanity of fugitive amusement, and to participate in the solid *pleasures of religion*. The following hymn is predicated upon the above anecdote:

How great my pleasures at the play!
(A lady once was heard to say)

Amusement surely all divine!
 Be such amusements always mine.
 First, there's the joy I always know,
 Before the hour arrives to go ;
 And when I'm there—but who can say
 What are my raptures at the play !
 Besides, the rare collected joy
 Next day affords me sweet employ.
 That may be true, (a friend replied)
 But is there not one joy beside ?
 You have not mention'd—tell me why,
 The joys of plays when call'd to die ?—
 Perhaps a thunderbolt from heaven
 Might then have less confusion given.
 The gay young lady felt the smart,
 Conviction seiz'd her wounded heart.
 No more she boasts her former joys,
Religion now her thoughts employs ;
 False pleasures can no more amuse,
 Superior bliss she now pursues.
 O happy change ! she says, and tells you why,
 RELIGION'S JOYS *will last when call'd—TO DIE.*

We copy the following lines from the Gentleman's Magazine for March 1758, and are persuaded that though they may not be new, they will yet be acceptable to every pious reader.

A SOLILOQUY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CHURCH YARD.

BY THE REV. MR. MOORE OF CORNWALL.

STRUCK with religious awe, and solemn dread,
 I view these gloomy mansions of the dead :
 Around me tombs in mixt disorder rise.
 And in *mute* language teach me to be wise.
 Time was these *ashes* liv'd—a time must be
 When others thus may stand—and look at me ;
 Alarming thought ! no wonder 'tis we dread
 O'er these uncomfortable vaults to tread,
 Where blended lie the *aged* and the *young*,
 The *rich* and *poor* an undistinguish'd throng ;
 Death conquers all, and time's subduing hand
 Nor tombs, nor marble-statues can withstand.
 Mark yonder *ashes* in confusion spread !
 Compare earth's *living* tenants with her dead !
 How striking the resemblance, yet how just !
 Once life and soul informed this mass of dust ;
 Around these *bones* now broken and decay'd,
 The streams of life in various channels play'd :
 Perhaps that *skull* so horrible to view
 Was some fair *maid's*, ye *Belles* as fair as you ;
 These hollow *sockets* two bright orbs contain'd,
 Where the *loves* sported, and in triumph reign'd ;
 Here glow'd the *lips*, there white as *Parian* stone,
 The *teeth* dispos'd in beauteous order shone.
 This is life's goal—no farther can we view,
 Beyond it, all is wonderful and new ;
 O deign some courteous *ghost* ! to let us know
 What we must *shortly* be, and you are now !
 Sometimes you warn us of approaching fate,
 Why hide the knowledge of your *present* state ?

With joy ~~bold~~ us tremblingly explore
Th' unkr^{own} gulph, that you can fear no more ?

The ~~grave~~ has eloquence—its lectures teach
In sileⁿc^e, louder than divines can preach ;
Hear ~~that~~ it says—ye sons of folly hear !
It ~~speaks~~ to you—O give it then your ear !
It ~~kiss~~ you lay all vanity aside,
O hat a lecture this for human pride !

The *clock* strikes twelve—how solemn is the sound !
ark, how the strokes from hollow vaults rebound !
They bid us hasten to be wise, and show
How rapid in their course the minutes flow.

See yonder *yew*—how high it lifts its head !
Around their gloomy shade the branches spread !
Old and decay'd, it still retains a grace
And adds more solemn horror to the place.

Whose tomb is this ? it says, 'tis *Myra's* tomb,
Pluck'd from the world in beauty's fairest bloom.
Attend ye fair ! ye thoughtless, and ye gay !
For *Myra* died upon her *nuptial* day !
The grave, cold *bridegroom* ! clasp'd her in its arms,
And the *worm* rioted upon her charms.

In yonder tomb the old *Avaro* lies
Once he was rich—the world esteemed him wise :
Schemes unaccomplish'd labour'd in his mind,
And all his thoughts were to the world confin'd ;
Death came unlook'd for—from his grasping hands
Down dropt his *bags*, and *mortgages* of lands.

Beneath that sculptur'd pompous marble stone
Lies youthful *Florio*, aged *twenty-one* ;
Cropt like a flow'r, he wither'd in his bloom,
Tho' flatt'ring life had promis'd years to come ;
Ye silken sons ! ye *Florio's* of the age
Who tread in giddy maze life's flow'ry stage !
Mark here the end of man, in *Florio* see
What you, and all the sons of earth shall be !

There low in dust the vain *Hortensio* lies
Whose splendour once we view'd with envious eyes :
Titles and arms his pompous marble grace,
With a long hist'ry of his noble race ;
Still after death his vanity survives,
And on his tomb *all* of *Hortensio* lives.

Around me as I turn my wand'ring eyes,
Unnumber'd graves in awful prospect rise,
Whose *stones* say only when their *owners* died,
If *young*, or *aged*, and to whom *allied*.
On *others* pompous epitaphs are spread
In mem'ry of the virtues of the *dead*—
Vain waste of praise ! since flatt'ring or sincer
The judgment day alone will make appear.

How silent is this little spot of ground !
How melancholy looks each object round !
Here man dissolv'd in shatter'd ruin lies
So fast a-sleep—as if no more to rise ;
'Tis strange to think how *these dead bones can live*,
Leap into form, and with new heat revive !
Or how this trodden earth to life shall wake,
Know its old place, its former figure take !
But whence these fears ? when the last *trumpet* sounds
Thro' heav'n's expanse to earth's remotest bounds,

The dead shall quit these tenements of care,
 And view again the long extinguish'd day—
 It must be so—the same Almighty pow'r
 From dust who form'd us, can from dust rest,
 Cheer'd with this pleasing hope, I safely trust
Jehovah's pow'r to raise me from the dust,
 On his unfailing promises rely,
 And all the horrors of the grave defy.
Cornwall, March 16.

LINES

*Written on the passage of the Steam Boat FULTON, captain Bunker, from
 New-York to Hartford, May 10, 1815.*

What galliot gay, with silken streamers flying,
 On thy fair wave, Connecticut, is plying ?
 Like Cleopatra's barge, stately she moves
 Along thy meads, thy banks, thy fields and groves ;
 With friendly prow thy gentle tides dividing,
 By unseen power on thy calm bosom gliding,
 No canvass swelling to the devious gales,
 Nor lab'ring oars supply the want of sails :
 Impell'd alone by steam's resistless force,
 Like Triton's car she drives her even course,
 In gallant trim majestic, gracefully along
 She speeds, the wonder of the gazing throng.

'Tis she ! 'tis FULTON's self—(lamented name,
 Accept the sigh of homage to thy fame)
 'Tis FULTON's Steam-Boat, swiftest, swiftest, best,
 Where his unrivall'd genius stands confest—
 The Fulton opening to our eager sight,
 Filling each eye with new and strange delight,
 She comes, a flying caravan of state,
 In rich convenience, eminently great ;
 All that the luxury of land affords,
 Supply and variegate her sumptuous boards ;
 All that our ease or health or wants demand,
 Are promptly furnished by the ready hand.
 Without fatigue our journey we pursue,
 Pleasure or business, or whate'r our view ;
 Safe from the rigors of our varying clime,
 As ease or pleasure prompts we pass the time ;
 Nor storm nor calm impedes our rapid way,
 Thy laws, O Steam ! all elements obey.

Then welcome, thou, thrice welcome to our tide,
 Fulton, the traveller's friend, Columbia's pride ;
 While distant climes shall long regard thy worth,
 More grateful still, the land that gave thee birth—
 O master of the giant-might of steam,
 Shall hail thy genius as a gift supreme,
 And greet thy labors with the just applause
 Of general patronage and favoring laws.
 Connecticut, the arts and science' friend
 Not slow to feel, nor tardy to commend,
 To sterling merit just, to genius true,
 The public good kept steadily in view
 Thy name, O Fulton, ever will respect,
 Thy works encourage and thy rights protect ;
 Thy benefits enhance, thy gifts encrease,
 And all thy labors crown with the rich fruits of peace .

CONNECTICUTENSIS.

AMERICAN REGISTER.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNT.

Washington, July 11.

Copy of a letter from captain Biddle to commodore Decatur, dated

U. S. sloop Hornet, off Tristan d' Acunha, March 25, 1815.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that on the morning of the 23d inst. at half past ten, when about to anchor, off the north end of the island of Tristan d' Acunha, a sail was seen to the southward and eastward, steering to the westward, the wind fresh from the S. S. W. In a few minutes she had passed on to the westward so that we could not see her for the land. I immediately made sail to the westward, and shortly after getting sight of her again, perceived her to bear up before the wind. I hove to for her to come down to us. When she had approached near, I filled the main topsail, and continued to yaw the ship, while she continued to come down; wearing occasionally to prevent her passing under our stern. At 1 40 P. M. being nearly within musket shot distance, she hauled her wind on the starboard tack, hoisted English colors, and fired a gun. We immediately luffed to, hoisted our ensign, and gave the enemy a broadside.

The action being thus commenced, a quick and well directed fire was kept up from this ship, the enemy gradually drifting nearer to us, when at 1h. 55m. he bore up, apparently to run us on board. As soon as I perceived he would certainly fall on board, I called the boarders so as to be ready to repel any attempt to board us. At the instant every officer and man repaired to the quarter-deck, where the two vessels were coming in contact, and eagerly pressed me to permit them to board the enemy: but this I would not permit, as it was evident from the commencement of the action that our fire was greatly superior both in quickness and in effect. The enemy's bowsprit came in between our main and mizen rigging, on our starboard side, affording him an opportunity to board us, if such was his design, but no attempt was made. There was a considerable swell on, and as the sea lifted us ahead, the enemy's bowsprit carried away our mizen shrouds, stern davits and spanker boom, and he hung upon our larboard quarter. At this moment an officer, who was afterwards recognised to be Mr. McDonald, the first lieutenant, and the then commanding officer, called out that they had surrendered. I directed the marines and musket-men to cease firing, and, while on the taffrail asking if they had surrendered, I received a wound in the neck.

The enemy just then got clear of us, and his foremast and bowsprit being both gone, and perceiving us wearing to give him a fresh broadside, he again called out that he had surrendered. It was with difficulty I could restrain my crew from firing into him again as he had certainly fired into us after surrendering. From the firing of the first gun, to the last time the enemy cried out he had surrendered, was exactly 22 minutes by the watch. She proved to be his B. M. brig Penguin, mounting sixteen 32 pound carronades, two long 12s, a 12 pound carronade on the topgallant forecastle, with swivels on the capstern and in the tops. She had a spare port forward, so as to fight both her long guns of a side. She sailed from England in September last. She was shorter upon deck than this ship by two feet, but she had a greater length of keel, greater breadth of beam, thicker sides, and higher bulwarks, than this ship, and was in all respects, a remarkably fine vessel of her class.

The enemy acknowledge a complement of 132; 12 of them supernumerary marines from the Medway, 74, received on board in consequence of their being ordered to cruise for the American privateer Young Wasp. They acknowledge, also, a loss of 14 killed and 28 wounded; but Mr. Mayo, who was in charge of the prize, assures me that the number of killed was certainly greater. Among the killed is Capt. Dickenson, who fell at the close of the action, and the boatswain; among the wounded, is the second lieutenant, purser, and two midshipmen. Each of the midshipmen lost a leg. We received on board in all, one hundred and eight persons, four of whom have since died of their wounds. Having removed the prisoners, and taken

on board such provisions and stores as would be useful to us, I scuttled the Penguin, this morning, before daylight, and she went down. As she was completely riddled by our shot, her foremast and bowsprit both gone, and her mainmast so crippled as to be incapable of being secured, it seemed unadvisable, at this distance from home, to attempt sending her to the U. States.

This ship did not receive a single round shot in her hull, nor any material wound in her spars; the rigging and sails were very much cut; but having bent a new suit of sails and knotted and secured our rigging, we are now completely ready in all respects, for any service. We were eight men short of complement, and had nine upon the sick list the morning of the action.

Enclosed is a list of killed and wounded. I lament to state that lieutenant Conner is wounded dangerously. I feel great solicitude on his account, as he is an officer of much promise, and his loss would be a serious one to the service.

It is a most pleasing part of my duty, to acquaint you that the conduct of lieuts. Conner and Newton, Mr. Mayo, acting lieu. Brownlow of the marines, sailing master Romney, and the other officers, seamen and marines I have the honor to command, was in the highest degree creditable to them, and calls for my warmest recommendation. I cannot, indeed, do justice to their merits. The satisfaction which was diffused throughout the ship when it was ascertained that the stranger was an enemy's sloop of war, and the alacrity with which every one repaired to quarters, fully assured me that their conduct in action would be marked with coolness and intrepidity. I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

J. BIDDLE.

New-York, May 19, 1815.

MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON.

Sailed yesterday morning the U. S. squadron, under the command of commodore Decatur, for the Mediterranean, consisting of—

Frigates Guerriere, (Com. Decatur's flag ship) Captain Lewis; Macedonian, Captain Jones; Constellation, Capt. Gordon; Sloop of war Ontario, Capt. Elliot; Brigs Epervier, Capt. Downs; Fire Fly,* Rogers; Flambeau, Nicholson; Spark, Gamble; Schs. Spitfire, Dallas; and Torch, Chauncey.

We understand the whole of the squadron are to rendezvous at Gibraltar. Wm. Shaler, esq. one of our commissioners appointed by our government to treat of peace with the Dey of Algiers, embarked on board of the Guerriere. When Commodore Decatur and Captain Jones got into the gig at the foot of the battery, to go on board of their ships, the citizens gave them three hearty cheers as a farewell. Before they return, it is hoped they will effect a liberation of the captive Americans held in slavery by the Dey of Algiers and chastise the savage tyrant for the cruelties he has inflicted upon our countrymen.

From the Boston Gazette, of July 3.

MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON SAILED.

The squadron for the Mediterranean sailed yesterday, consisting of the following vessels, viz.

Independence, 74, Com. Bainbridge, Capt. Crane; Sloop Erie, Captain Ridgely; Brig Chippewa, Lt. Com'dt. Reid; Sch'r. Lynx, Lieutenant Storer.

The squadron has been detained some days past in consequence of the Independence having, been on trial, found rather crank with the heavy metal she had on board, which consisted of all 32 pounders—90 guns; long guns on the middle and lower deck, and carronades on the upper. The lower deck guns were cast considerably heavier than those on the middle deck, and have been taken out, and their place has been supplied by 24 pounders in lieu of the former, which change has lighted her about 50 tons—The pilots left the squadron at half past 2 P. M. about 5 leagues from the light house, under a press of sail, standing to the eastward, with a good breeze at W. N. W. The Independence outsailed the remainder of the squadron, and spared them her light sails.

* This vessel, having sprung her mast, put back to New-York, whence she again sailed for the Mediterranean on the 18th July.

NEW-YORK CELEBRATION.

New-York, July 6, 1815.

The thirty ninth Anniversary of our National Independence was celebrated on Tuesday with the most lively demonstrations of joy. The firing of cannon and ringing of bells ushered in the morning. The first brigade of artillery, Colonel Warner's regiment of horse artillery, &c. under command of Brigadier-General Curtenius formed in the Park, in front of the city hall, where the troops were reviewed by Major-Generals Morton, Steddisford, Mapes, and Ward, accompanied by the Mayor and Common Council, the Members of the Council of Appointment, several U. S. Officers, and the officers of the French frigate *Hermione*. The spectators were uncommonly numerous, and comprised a great part of the beauty and fashion of the city. The appearance of the militia was splendid. The different societies attached to the two great parties which divide the public, agreeably to the arrangements published in this paper, walked in procession; one to the Washington Hall, and the other to the Circus, to hear the customary oration; and in the evening the public gardens, the theatre, and every place of fashionable amusement, were crowded. The day was uncommonly fine, and no material accident occurred to lessen the general festivity.

The Steam Frigate *Fulton* the first, went to sea, and returned in about seven hours, after a cruise of which a nautical gentleman who was on board has furnished the following particulars:—

"July 4th, at 10 minutes past nine, A. M. left the wharf at Corlear's Hook, running over the tide, which is stronger at this place than at any other in the neighborhood of New-York, at the rate of one and one fourth mile per hour. Several gentlemen having arrived on board, who did not arrive previous to leaving the wharf, put about, run across, passing near Brooklyn, recrossed, passing near the Battery up the Hudson as far as Albany Basin where she put about at ten minutes after ten. In proceeding for Sandy Hook, run into the Kill tides near the residence of Gov. Tompkins, arrived at sea in three hours and eight minutes; sent a boat and brought a pilot on board that had piloted a brig.

"On our arrival at sea, the machinery was stopped, the helm put to star-board, she went about until her head was towards New-York when the helm was righted. Returned to New-York in three hours and fifteen minutes, landing the Commissioners and other gentlemen at the Battery. Her boat returning, she proceeded, and arrived at her birth at Corlaer's Hook at forty minutes after five; having run the distance of at least forty five miles from Albany Basin to sea, and returning, in the short space of six hours and twenty-three minutes."

The whole distance supposed to be run in the course of the eight hours and twenty-six minutes that she was under way, is fifty-three miles, and a considerable part of that distance against tide, as she had no sail set. The wind, during the cruise, was for and against nearly balanced. We could not however, help noticing, that of many vessels coming up from Sandy Hook, with the wind sometimes on the quarter and at other times abeam, but one held any way with her, a light flat sloop; she however, was left at considerable distance astern. Not a single accident occurred on board to mar the pleasures of the day.

ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE.

Baltimore, July 5, 1815.

Yesterday the anniversary of American Independence was celebrated, in this city, in a style no less brilliant and interesting than novel. After the day was ushered in by the usual firing of cannon, the military, in handsome equipment and numbers, appeared under arms; formed on Washington Square, and in Market and Gay-streets; and at half past ten o'clock marched out to Howard's Park, to the spot upon which is to be erected the first monument of national gratitude to the memory of the immortal Washington. The military were accompanied by an immense concourse of citizens and

strangers, and followed by the numerous and honorable fraternity of masons. Baltimore never before exhibited such a vast assemblage of people, adorned by so much female beauty. Persons were present from all the neighboring country and towns, to witness the splendid spectacle. On reaching the appointed place, the arrangements, previously published in the newspapers, were carried into effect, with a dignity and solemnity becoming the occasion. Music, a salute of 39 guns, an elegant and patriotic address by James A. Buchanan, Esq. and prayer, introduced the ceremony of placing the corner stone of the Washington Monument, which was performed by the President of the Managers, aided by Governor Winder and Colonel Howard, in masonic style. A grand salute of 100 guns from Colonel Harris's regiment of artillery, and three rounds from the infantry, concluded the forms of the day. The whole scene was characterized by harmony, cheerfulness, and regularity; and we are rejoiced to add, that no accident, no disorder, occurred to mar the joy produced by the occasion.

Pat.

We intended to insert the Reports, &c. of the Committees in New-York, incident to the liberal donation of the Common Council, in this Number, but they are necessarily deferred; and in the meantime, we give the following brief notice to our Readers.

The Common Council of New-York, have resolved to appropriate the extensive building at present occupied as the Alms-house, situate in the rear of the city hall, to the use of the several societies in that city instituted for the promotion of literature and the fine arts. It is contemplated to appropriate the 3d floor, 260 feet in length, with an arched ceiling, to be lighted from above, for the casts, paintings, &c. belonging to the academy of fine arts; the second floor, with the exception of the wings, to the accommodation of Beudder's Museum of Natural History. The first floor to be suitably divided, for the use of the City Library, Historical Society, U. S. Military Philosophical Society, and New-York Literary and Philosophical Society, including a cabinet of mineralogy, models and drawings of machinery, utensils, &c. appertaining to agriculture and the arts. The basement story to be converted into a chemical laboratory.

This liberal policy on the part of the Common Council, while it reflects credit upon its members, augurs auspiciously to the science and literature of our state.

Argus.

MERINOES.

The number and grades of Sheep owned by gentlemen residing within one mile of the centre of the town of Pittsfield, Mass. are ascertained to be as follows:—

Full blood Merinoes,	-	-	-	-	-	435
15-16th bloods,	-	-	-	-	-	388
7-8th bloods,	-	-	-	-	-	898
3-4th bloods,	-	-	-	-	-	2290
5-8 bloods	-	-	-	-	-	170
1-2 bloods	-	-	-	-	-	3048
1-4th bloods	-	-	-	-	-	338
Common sheep,	-	-	-	-	-	852

Total number of Sheep, 8478!

We congratulate our countrymen upon the animating prospect which this instance of individual enterprise promises for the encouragement and support of American Manufactures—a subject upon which no true American can be cold or indifferent.—*Sun, June, 1815*

New-York, May 7.

On Monday last commenced the sale, by auction, of the Pews in the new Catholic Cathedral of St. Patrick. There are 195 Pews in the church, but only 77 were sold on that day, which brought 37,500 dollars. Twelve out of this number averaged 1000 dollars.

Wooden Legs.—We were yesterday shown a wooden leg and foot, made by captain Benjamin T. Adams, an invalid at the Marine Hospital, Charlestown. The symmetry appears perfect, and the points of the knee, ankle and toes are rendered movable by spiral springs, so as to make them extremely convenient in walking or sitting. Several officers deprived of their natural legs by the chances of war, have adopted those made by captain Adams, and approve of them.—*Bost. Pat.*

FROM NIAGARA.

On Tuesday last, the *Lady of the Lake* arrived off Fort Niagara, from Sacket's Harbor. Major Brown, who came in her, brought orders to the commanding officer on this station, for the troops which had left, and which were preparing to leave this place, for different destinations, to return and continue here until further orders. In consequence of which the 10th and 12th regiments which had embarked were landed. The 5th had proceeded too far to be countermanded. The 4th had sailed for Sacket's Harbor before the orders were received. The 16th has been ordered into Fort Niagara. The cause of this movement is not certainly known. It is, however, probably occasioned by the expectation of a war with the western Indians, who have lately manifested a disposition to renew hostilities. The British, we understand, delay surrendering Mackinaw; and the Indians are collecting a large force in that vicinity, and threaten to take possession of that post as soon as the British leave it. The new 3d and 5th regiments are expected here in a few days, from Sacket's Harbor. The destination of these troops has been altered in consequence of threatening appearances to the westward.

Major General Brown we understand is expected here soon.

Buffalo Journal.

THE YANKERS IN VIRGINIA.

Norfolk, May 26.

The perseverance and enterprise of our Northern brethren, are equalled only by their ingenuity in devising untried schemes of acquiring wealth. The schooners *Lucina* and *Hiram*, of Dartmouth, and sloop *Fairplay*, of Philadelphia, have been for some days past dragging about the anchorage ground of the British squadron in Lynhaven Bay, for anchors, &c. and yesterday came in with nine of those articles and four complete cables, one of which is apparently new. The finders had no difficulty in disposing of their acquisitions for a very handsome sum.

BRITISH LAW.

An act to prevent Foreign Goods of certain descriptions being brought from the United States of America into Canada; and to allow a greater quantity of Worsted Yarn to be exported from Great Britain to Canada.—(5th April, 1815.)

WHEREAS it is expedient that foreign goods and commodities not of the growth of the territories of the United States of America, should not be brought from the said territories by inland navigation or land carriage, into the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, to the prejudice of the trade carried on by sea from the United Kingdom to the said provinces.—Be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that no goods or commodities whatsoever, except goods and commodities of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the territories of the United States of America, shall be brought from the territories of the said United States of America, by inland navigation or land carriage, into the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, under the penalty of the forfeiture of the said goods or commodities, or the value thereof, together with the vessel or carriage in which the same shall be brought, to be sued for, &c.

Montreal, (Canada) June 17.

Providence brings good out of evil. One benefit resulting from the late unhappy war is that the country people, who were too much indebted to the merchants and traders, have, in consequence of the plenty of money circulated by the war, generally paid their debts, and are now more independent in their circumstances. Let them hereafter beware of the practice of anticipating their crops, by purchasing merchandize on credit, to be paid after harvest.

Capt. Blackwell, brig *Savage*, arrived at Baltimore July 20th, informs, that, by a letter from Mr. Rose of Lisbon, to Mr. Telling of Madeira, it appeared that an Algerine frigate had been off the bar of Lisbon, and had captured 4 Americans, 2 Portuguese and 2 Dutch vessels; the above mentioned letter was dated about the 7th June. The brig *Othello*, Whiting, which arrived on the 15th June, from Georgetown bound to Cadiz, but in consequence of having spoke an English vessel from Gibraltar, on the 5th inst. in lat. 39. 30 N., long. 25. 30 W. who informed him he was boarded by three Algerine Frigates off Cape St. Vincent a few days before. He, in consequence, changed her original destination, and put into Madeira to escape being captured by said cruisers. The capture of the *Penguin* by the *Hornet*, in the S. Seas, was in a letter to Mr. Penfold, of Madeira. The S. spoke going into the Roads of Funchal, brig *Eugene*, from Savannah. Distinguished attention and respect was paid to Mr. Cathcart, by the Governor of Madeira on his leaving the Island; granting privileges, and permitting his baggage to pass clear of custom-house forms and duties.

AWFUL CONFLAGRATION.

Extract of a letter addressed to a gentleman in this city, dated

Richmond, July 17th.

Last night, at Petersburg, a fire broke out which raged until about two-thirds of the town was destroyed, say five hundred houses—the office of discount and deposit; the tobacco ware-house and its contents, and the market-house, are included. The loss is immense, as, besides the buildings, most of the property they contained, we are told, was consumed.—*Philad. D. Adv.*

EXCELLENT BRITISH REGULATIONS.

The British government are already taking measures to put their *disbanded soldiers* in possession of the bounty lands, &c. promised them for their services in the late war, as appears by the following extract from a general order of the Governor General of the Canadas, dated the 7th inst.

"Each soldier is to be allowed one hundred acres of land, and is to receive his location from the superintendant, upon his being satisfied that the claimant is of the character to become a useful settler. He is to be placed on his lands; the boundaries of which, and the conditions of his grant, are to be expressed in the ticket of location. It is to be clearly understood that the lands held under these grants cannot be alienated or disposed of, until the grantee shall have resided upon and cultivated a reasonable proportion of the same, for the space of three years.

"Officers will be entitled to a ticket of location, in the first instance, for 200 acres of land, upon condition that they cause a reasonable proportion of the same to be cultivated, and do not dispose of it until three years after the date of the ticket.

"Officers and men are to receive provisions for themselves and families, in such proportions as shall hereafter be specified, for one year.

"Implements of husbandry and tools, will also be supplied to them in sufficient quantities, and other comforts, according to the necessities of the individuals."

FOREIGN EVENTS.

At such a time as the present, when the aspect of the political world is so rapidly changing, we dare not presume to offer a hasty abstract of events to our readers; nor to suppose that any MONTHLY RETROSPECT of ours, could be so satisfactory as to have the most important public documents presented entire, with such articles of news, as seem best calculated to exhibit just views of the principal occurrences of the present times. Whatever of importance that shall occur, during the year, proper for insertion under this head, will be found noticed under that of GENERAL CHRONOLOGY, at the end of each Volume: But, during the great contest that seems likely soon to engage attention in Europe, we shall endeavor to embrace the principal features in our selections.

CONGRESS OF VIENNA.

Extract from minutes of Conferences of the powers who signed the Treaty of Paris.

CONFERENCE OF THE 12TH MAY, 1815.

THIRD QUESTION.

Is it necessary to publish a new Declaration?

The observations which the committee have just presented, furnish the answer to the last question which remains to be examined.

It considers,

1. That the declaration of the 13th of March was dictated to the powers by reasons of such evident justice and such decided weight, that none of the sophistries by which it is pretended to be attacked, can at all affect it.
2. That these reasons remain in all their force; and that the changes that have in fact occurred since the declaration of the 13th of March, have produced no alteration in the position of Bonaparte and of France with regard to the allies.
3. That the offer to ratify the treaty of Paris, cannot on any account alter the disposition of the allies

Therefore, the committee are of opinion that it would be useless to publish a new declaration.

[Here follows the record of the adoption of the above report by all the powers, and the signatures of their plenipotentiaries.]

Plymouth, Eng. June 3.

London papers of the 1st say, that Bonaparte remained in Paris. Nothing was said of his departure for the army; and the ceremony of the *Champ de Mai*, had been further postponed. Two frigates were prepared in France, with secret orders, ready to take off Bonaparte, and his family, in case of extremity.

Insurrections continue in the western and interior French departments.

The mails between England and France continue four times a week.

All Bonaparte's anxiety appears to be to fortify Paris; and some of the batteries were calculated to *batter* down, as well as to defend the city.

Admiral Hotham, has sailed with a squadron to take possession of Martinique and Guadaloupe.

Troops are continually embarking and sailing for the Netherlands.

The British Parliament had rejected the petition from Westminster on account of its indecorous language.

The motion for an address to the Prince Regent, promising the concurrence of the House in effective measures to carry on the war against Bonaparte, was carried in the House of Commons, May 31st, by a majority of 331 to 93; the largest number of members present which has been known for a long time.

Lord Castlereagh officially informed the House that the troops which the Allies would bring into the field would exceed *One Million*.

Vienna, May 16.—We may expect every moment to receive the news of the entrance of our troops into Naples, and the surrender of Ancona.

Dusseldorf, May 8.—Above 200,000 Prussians are arrived on the Banks of the Rhine, and we wait only for the arrival of the Russian army of 250,000 men, which is rapidly advancing; in order to begin the operations. The events that may be expected will surpass every thing that has yet been seen.

*Dunkirk and Lisle had been declared by Bonaparte in a state of rebellion.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for June and July, Albany, Lat. 42° 39' N.

We are indebted for the following observations, to the politeness of Dr. EIGHTS, of this city, who keeps a Meteorological Journal, at the request of the Common Council. The accuracy of the records may be relied on.

JUNE.

The early part of the Month of June was remarkable for its coolness and moisture, and for the backwardness of the season generally—the latter part of the Month became more pleasant and warm—although the mornings and evenings, remained cool.

The greatest degree of heat was on the 20th, the Mercury standing in the morning 7 o'clock, 78°; at 3 P. M. 84°, and at 9 P. M. 76°. Wind W., throughout the day. The lowest heat was on the 8th, the Mercury standing at 7 A. M. 54°; at 3 P. M. 62°, and at 9 P. M. 58°. Wind W. The medium range of the Barometer 29.70. Rain fell on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 13th, 16th, 19th, 26th; that on the 3rd accompanied with severe hail, and that on the 13th fell in torrents.—The prevailing Winds in the first part of the Month, S. E. and S. and variable—in the latter part, W. and S. W.

The diseases prevalent during the Month—Remittent and Intermittent Fevers—Measles—Catarrhal Affections—Cough, and a few cases of Small-Pox.

JULY.

The month of July thus far (18th) has been uncommonly warm. The greatest degree of Heat was on the 14th. The Mercury standing at 7 A. M. 79°; between 11 A. M. and 1 P. M. near 91°, and at 9 P. M. 82°. Wind during the day S. E. and S. The lowest degree of Heat was on the 4th. The Thermometer standing at 7 A. M. 62°; 3 P. M. 72°; at 9 P. M. 65°. Wind W. and N. W.—Rain fell on the 1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th, 16th.—The prevailing Winds, W., S. and variable. Diseases prevalent this Month—Diarrhoea—Dysentery—Remittent fever—Cholera Morbus—Measles—Erysipelas—Nettlerash, and a few cases Small-Pox—The season in general healthy.

Washington City, June 30.

METEOROLOGICAL—June, 1815.

Fahrenheit's Thermometer.

Mean altitude for the month,	73.66
Warmest day, 22d	89.
Coldest, do. 8th	61.
Highest temperature, 22d at 2, P. M.	97.
Lowest do. 10th, at sunrise,	50.
Winds—North 4, South 33, E. 2, W. 20, N. W. 4, S. W. 4, S. E. 5, Calm 18.	
Weather—Clear, 63—Cloudy, 20—Rain, 7—Lightning and thunder, 5.	
Positron—In shade on the north side of a house in F. street, 27 feet above the pavement.	
Temperature of the public fountain in F. street on the 30th, 58.	

THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE,

CONDUCTED BY

HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD, A. M.

Author of a Geography of the United States, a Gazetteer of the State of New-York, &c. &c.—a Member of the New-York Historical Society, and one of the Counsellors of the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts;—a Member of the American Antiquarian Society, and of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, Massachusetts.

No. 3.

AUGUST, 1815.

VOL. I.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

MR. SPAFFORD, SIR—

THE great length of time that has elapsed since philosophers began to reason and to speculate on the nature of Light and Heat, and the deep interest which these enquiries have always excited, furnish sufficient evidence of their importance in the estimation of the best informed. Science, indeed, is deeply interested in these enquiries, though they seem, to many, at first view, as the mere offspring of idle curiosity.

While reasoning on the nature and composition of light, we are led to contemplate the Sun as the great source of light in our system; and while we naturally enquire of *what substance is the Sun composed*, our thoughts again return to contemplate that light and heat which it gives us.

I do not suppose that by reasoning on this matter we shall ever find out much about the Sun, nor do I know that it is very important to us that we should; but we may learn much about the nature and properties of light and heat, and much that may be useful to man. Did we know precisely, the distinction in nature between light and heat; did we know whether they are properties of one substance, as I incline to believe, or whether they are separate substances;—we should then know, much better than we now do, how to direct our efforts for the production and management of two most powerful agents in the economy of nature, and in the arts which have sprung from the ingenuity and exertions of man.

As I do not design this paper for any higher destiny than as a vehicle of occasional thoughts, I shall offer mine with the freedom that they occur to me, and without any other inducement than a desire to give and to receive instruction. Should these observations prompt others, better qualified, to offer theirs to the public, my labor will have been well rewarded;—as it would be, should it only occasion thoughtful enquiry, and patient investigation, from which in time may spring light upon light.

If, in the spirit of meditation, I reason upon light, from what I know of its properties, I can find nothing of substance or matter attached to it, any more than to sound. Light in any quantity, may be transmitted through space without any degree of visibility to my perceptions—and, under other circumstances,

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N

be made visible at pleasure. If the greatest intensity of light, transmitted through a medium incapable of refraction, or of changing the direction of its rays, be invisible to my eyes, I am authorised in saying that, under these circumstances, light is not light, and of course cannot be a substance, but a property or quality of some substance. A perfect vacuum, can occasion no refraction of the rays of light; and of course though the whole light of the Sun be passing through it, must remain perfectly dark. The refractive powers of the various media through which the rays of the Sun pass, determine the different degrees of light that will be visible in those media, and that without any reference to relative distances from that luminary.

The question of the materiality of light, has given rise to much speculation about the substance of the Sun. Some, supposing it certain that light is a substance, thrown from the Sun, have given themselves great inquietude lest the supply, occasioned by this constant and great emission, should not be continued! Others have been weighing the rays of light, confident that light must have weight;—and some have been persuaded that they have actually determined the weight of the rays that have passed through spaces of certain dimensions!

Without undertaking to say, absolutely, that my opinion is better than those, I will venture to conjecture that the above opinions are erroneous. Suppose we try some little experiments, in which we endeavor to forget all the prejudices of pre-conceived opinions. This Lens, so concentrates the rays of the Sun, that at the focal distance of 3 feet, it sets wood on fire. Do you see how the steam of the wood, before it appears to blaze, shoots along the stream of heat and light toward the lens? This is intense heat, and it is also intense light. Try the same experiment by the light of the moon, and observe the action of the air through this microscope.—Is light a substance, now, in your opinion, issuing from radiant bodies, with immense velocity? Try the burning of a cork, within a glass receiver, exhausted by the air pump;—and then try it in the open air. Suspend it by a delicate string, and witness the effect! Can you weigh the rays of light in your scales, and, estimating its continual waste from the Sun, determine the duration of its light! Vain thought—presumptuous, and profane! The works of God are not constructed on principles so imperfect; but having a perfection and order and beauty above our comprehension, they are therefore, and solely on that account, incomprehensible to us. Let us not, then, presumptuously limit omnipotence by finite comprehension, and ascribe imperfection to the works of Deity, by way of apology for our own ignorance or incapacity.

This long box is divided into three equal compartments, and the glass in one side of each, enables you to discover and compare the degrees of light within. The light of the lamp, in No 1, at one end, thrown by a reflector through apertures in the partitions, produces nearly equal degrees of light within

each, while the temperatures are the same, and the air possesses the same degree of refractive power. But, varying the temperatures and refractive powers, the product of light is varied in proportion. By means of this little stove in the middle room, I have heated the air in it to 212° of Fahrenheit, and of course deprived it of a large portion of its humidity, and refractive power. Opening the apertures, and throwing again the light through them, the middle room remains much darker than the other two. With this wire, I now pull an iron ball, which has been heated by lying on the stove, into the vessel of water which stands beside it, covered with paper:—the steam rises in curls, —and see how visible the stream of light has become, till, now, the middle room is the best illuminated of the three!

Such, Sir, are some of the experiments on which I found the above conjectures, and which I beg leave to submit to the consideration of your Readers.

CLERMONT

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

MR. SPAFFORD,

SIR—It is well known to chemists, that the affinity between sulphuric acid and iron, is greater than that of the same acid and copper; hence if iron be immersed in a solution of sulphate of copper, the acid will leave the copper and attach itself to the iron, thereby forming the sulphate of iron or copperas. The copper will be precipitated in a metallic form. I have by me some crystals of copperas formed in this way, and likewise the precipitated copper.

But if to a solution of sulphate of iron pulverized verdigrise be added, which is said to be partly an oxyd, and partly a sub acetite of copper, a yellow oxyd of iron will be immediately precipitated, and if proper quantities of the ingredients be used, the supernatant liquid will contain only the sulphate of copper, in which case it appears that the sulphuric acid forsakes the oxyd of iron to unite with the copper. Now if in these experiments the results be correct, it appears that, in the former the sulphuric acid leaves the copper, and unites with the iron; and in the latter, that the same acid unites with the iron and forsakes the copper. Acetite of copper, or the crystalized verdigrise of the shops, has been used instead of the common verdigrise, with the same result, but what becomes of the acetic acid in either case I have not ascertained. According to the doctrine of chemical affinity, if solutions of sulphate of iron and acetite of copper be mixed, and they act upon each other, the result ought to be acetite of iron, and sulphate of copper. The latter was plainly discoverable by the introduction of polished iron, but an infusion of galls did not detect any acetite of iron, though there was a copious precipitation of a yellow oxyd of that metal. Perhaps some of your chemical correspondents will give an explanation on this subject.

ENQUIRER.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

The Editor by presenting the enclosed excellent illustration of the fact, that the general tendency of currents in the ocean is from east towards the west, will afford matter for speculation, or perhaps induce some of his correspondents to offer their thoughts which may make the subject still more plain.

The letter is taken from the Dublin Correspondent.

ARTHUR.

(COPY)

"Neptune, St. John's Roads, Antigua, June 29, 1809."

"SIR—As the enclosed letter,* picked up in a bottle, on the windward part of the Island of Martinique, on the 18th April last, tends to elucidate the state of the currents in the Atlantic Ocean, I enclose it to you, with a request that you will be pleased to make the circumstances known to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

"The bottle appears to have been thrown overboard by the Princess Elizabeth Packet, going to the Brazils, on the 6th of September, 1808, in lat. $14^{\circ} 45'$, and long. 25° and it must have been carried about two thousand and twenty miles in two hundred and twenty-four days, which gives nine miles per day, on a west course.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

ALEX. COCHRANE.

"Hon. W. W. POLE."

* Several letters were found in the bottle, addressed to individuals.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

The following remarks on JUVENILE DISCIPLINE are offered for publication, with the hope that they may elicit some information from your friends and correspondents who have the welfare of the rising generation at heart. The subject is of no small importance, whether we consider it in its present application, or in its future consequences on the mind, and influence on society in future ages.

During a period of many years, the Legislature of the state of New York has been dividing the means of widely extending the blessing of public instruction. With a zeal highly honorable, we have seen many of the members, in each succeeding Legislature, devoted to this object; and it is now well known that the provisions by law, for maintaining common schools throughout this State, are most liberal. The object of the patrons of this plan, and of the Legislature, has been, to bring useful instruction within the reach of the most obscure in life, and to enable all the hidden seeds of genius to receive the benefits of cultivation. With as much humanity as justice, they have contended that the diffusion of knowledge is the best means to preserve our civil and religious liberties; and is the only sure support of our constitution and government: that the encouragement of science, and the bringing it within the reach of all would elicit the talents of many a youth, whose abilities would otherwise have remained in useless obscurity for the want of means to bring them into action. And that many who might become eminently useful in the different departments of society, would be left to rise or merely to vegetate

but one degree above the plants they cultivate, for want of those provisions.

But great and useful as these benefits might be made to appear by a warm imagination, and correct reasoning in benevolent plans and plausible theories, yet they will, in a great measure prove abortive, where an injudicious mode of discipline is pursued, and where the mind is not formed upon correct principles. That discipline in seminaries is necessary, all will acknowledge; but as it respects the method, principles, and extent of that discipline, there have been, and are still very different, and probably many very incorrect notions held, both by teachers and parents.

RIGIDNESS, has been contended for by some, as being absolutely necessary to restrain the volatile, to curb the passionate, to lead the wayward, and to tame the obstinate and the openly rebellious. By others it is contended, that *great mildness, persuasion and lecturing* are much the best. That "their little spirits should not be broken by severity." That harshness never impresses the mind favorably, either in the cause of virtue or science. That as the body is not in fault, corporal punishment should never be inflicted. That the little whims of minors are too trifling to be noticed in so serious a manner, when they have not acquired either the knowledge or experience, necessary to teach them that such practices are wrong.

Such are the pleas of those who contend for *rigidness*, and for *mildness*. Both cannot be right; yet both aim to contend for that method which will best affect the young mind. There is probably truth and error in both of their systems. But it is evident, that if either of them are pursued as they profess, they will give the young subjects of their theories a bias that will lead them astray through life.

I have frequently conversed with persons who have evidently received in their youth, such a disgust of the processes of learning, by some injudicious treatment in both of these theories, that they have never been able to conquer their dislike or to cultivate any branch of knowledge, either with pleasure or profit. Early impressions are not easily erased. The consequences have been that ignorance and vulgarity have marked their characters and conduct in most of their actions.

I fully believe that such cases may have been caused both by the extremes of severity, and of mildness. If the first acts on the mind, like an untimely frost, or an unkindly storm on vegetation, destroying the buds, and breaking the branches, which might have borne fruit—the other, as often either nurses it with so much heat and moisture that it is suffocated with an abundance of nourishment; or the weeds of bad passions and evil tempers are thereby permitted to take such deep root, that they prevent the plants from ever thriving, so as to bear any good fruit. The skilful gardener knows well that unless his ground is kept free from weeds, his plants cannot thrive. They must be destroyed in the bud, or it will be in vain to root them up, when they have out-grown his plants. If they be permitted to grow together they

must then be both rooted out, and the ground planted anew. But with youth there is but one spring, and "if the spring put forth no blossoms in summer, there will be no beauty, and in autumn no fruit: so if youth be *improperly cultivated*, manhood will be "contemptible and old age miserable."

To obviate the difficulties of being *strictly rigid*, and *weakly mild*, is the wish of the writer. That there are many difficulties in both of these systems he knows from experience, having had to contend with the effects of injudicious treatment of youth, in a way the most disagreeable. With these observations he would propose the following queries.

1. What plan of education will best serve to develop the faculties of the mind and implant a love of science for its own sake?
2. In what cases should corporal punishment be inflicted?
3. What the means, how to be used, and to what extent?

The more the first is accomplished by the talents of the teacher, the less need will there be of harsh means. But it often happens in the exercise of necessary correction, for cases of mischief, deception, obstinacy, and rebellion, that the worst of tempers, which, until then, have lain dormant, will break out into open resistance and furious rage. In such cases there appears to be an undeniable necessity of their being promptly subdued; this leads to consequences, which were not intended, nor expected at the commencement. The child smarts through his own folly, obstinacy and resistance; and smarting thus, flees to a fond parent, before whom he spreads his complaints in the most piteous manner, with every extenuation and palliative possible; and always very careful to leave out the real cause of the grievance. The parent in tenderness, feels hurt with the child's complaint; judges and condemns without farther examination, and exclaims—cruelty! The first ebullitions of temper having subsided, the subject becomes a standing topic for tea-table-chat. The story loses nothing of its importance by being thus told; slander and recrimination follow, and these produce real injuries, both to the peace of mind, and the character of the parties concerned: all of which might have been prevented by timely nipping the bud of unruly passions and evil tempers.

It is to be wished that the answers to the proposed queries may be applicable, not so much to select seminaries, where opulence and ease are most prominent features; with such the difficulties are of a different nature; but to those institutions, where the mass is necessarily of a mixed and heterogeneous nature.—Where numbers are necessary to make up the scanty pittance of the tutor, who undertakes the thankless office of weeding and cultivating, in general a sterile soil; often not naturally bad, but made so by improper management. Where the plans of the tutor are thwarted by the parents and low associations; where the tutor, in short, is employed for the same reasons as we employ a labourer to saw wood; viz: hard work, and low wages, for a drudgery the most insufferable.

If any of your correspondents should have had thoughts on

these subjects, and especially if they have had experience, their information may be of great service both to the parent and teacher, and may enable them to prevent those common causes of school complaints.

Many useful hints might be gathered from the pleasing account of the benevolent views of the celebrated and virtuous Francis de Salignac de la Motte Fenelon, both for the parent and tutor. It appears by the memoir of that amiable man and acute judge of human nature, that when he entered upon the duties of preceptor to the dukes of Burgundy and Berry, in 1689, he found the first haughty, imperious and passionate ; and of the most untractable disposition. That he was exceedingly fond of voluptuous pleasures ; naturally stern, barbarous and tyrannical. It was apprehended, should he attain the age of maturity, that he would be the scourge of mankind. He died in the year 1772. " Instead of adopting a painful train of arguments, Fenelon ordered, when any of those passions were in agitation, that his studies and amusements should be immediately suspended ; that the most profound silence, and an air of the deepest melancholy should be maintained by all who approached him. The prince finding himself thus avoided and considered as unworthy of attention, always grew weary of solitude, acknowledged his fault, requested forgiveness, and endeavored again to conciliate esteem and favor. Fenelon ever received his humiliation with complacency, and then took opportunities of representing the unhappy effect of such violent passions, both on himself and on those around him.

" In his system of education, every measure appeared the effect of accident. He laid down no regular hours of study, yet every hour and every place were made subservient to improvement and instruction. At dinner, at play, riding, walking, or in company, his curiosity was continually excited by casual hints, and judicious remarks were introduced in the course of the most desultory conversation. These hints led to questions and explanations. His pupil's studies were generally engaged in at his own request. In short by the power of education, Fenelon transformed his pupil ; rendered him from the haughtiest, the most humble, from the most ungovernable, the most easy of control, and from the most passionate and furious, the meekest of mankind. On any accident or situation, which was either calculated to correct a foible, or to recommend any particular virtue, Fenelon wrote a tale, a fable, or a dialogue," and thus impressed their minds by the application.

Though private instructors, and heads of families might take many useful hints from his practice, yet it would be impossible to pursue his plan in a large company of children, whose tempers and dispositions are as various, almost, as their countenances ; whose domestic treatment would thwart the good intended by such measures, and convert the proposed remedy into a subject of public ridicule.

JUVATUM.

FARMER'S CLUB,

Of Dutchess and Columbia Counties, in the state of New-York.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

The following information respecting the *Farmer's Club*, is respectfully offered for your Magazine.

Several gentlemen residing in the counties of Dutchess and Columbia, determined last winter to endeavor to establish an agricultural association. Although an attempt of the kind had been made in each of those counties without success, it was still hoped that the great advantages which might be derived from a well regulated institution of this nature, would induce such a number of farmers to become members as would render it respectable and useful. The difficulty of conducting business, where members are widely separated, induced the founders of this institution to limit it to the two counties above named.— Should the friends of agriculture in the adjoining counties, however, be disposed to co-operate, it would be readily extended to them; and the inhabitants of Greene and Ulster counties, would find it nearly as convenient as one expressly established for those counties. It was also deemed expedient to confine the objects of this institution to the improvement of our system of husbandry, including the raising of cattle, and live stock of every description; and for that purpose it is intended that premiums shall be annually awarded in such a manner as may be found most beneficial, and in such sums as the funds may allow. Much good has arisen from the competition excited by premiums, wherever agricultural associations have been instituted. They have been found of great public utility in Great Britain, where they have been greatly encouraged and extended; and a very respectable one at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, which also embraces manufactures, has already rendered itself worthy of the highest commendation. We hope that among us many experiments will be made, the results of which, together with the information that several are now able to furnish, will afford a mass of highly useful knowledge. Public exhibitions of fine stock, create an honorable emulation among farmers, and the recording of successful modes of agriculture, enables others to attempt the like. The meeting together of persons engaged in the same pursuit, enables them to obtain from each other a great deal of valuable information. And as all political discussions are to be banished from the *Farmer's Club*, it is hoped that their meetings will be a source of agreeable recreation, as well as being beneficial to the members. The Officers, at present, are a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Persons are admitted on the recommendation of a member, with the consent of the society. Honorary members may also be chosen by a majority of the Club. It is proposed to alter the rules at the next meeting, so as to have a Vice President in each county, where there shall be sectional meetings. Committees of correspondence, and such others as may be necessary, will also be appointed.

The members may become competitors for premiums without any other charge than the annual subscription. Those who are not members are to pay each one eighth of the value of the premium for which they wish to become competitors.

Such is an outline of the object and intentions of those who have associated under the denomination of the Farmer's Club, of Dutchess and Columbia. They will be happy to receive information on agricultural subjects from any quarter. They also indulge the hope that a very considerable addition to the list of members will be made next autumn, from among the wealthy and enterprising farmers of this section of the state, and flatter themselves that the institution will be so conducted as to render their labors not only advantageous to the members, but useful to the community at large.

L.

Columbia County, Aug. 9, 1815.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

As you have taken upon yourself to be an instructor of the public,* it is to be expected that you will permit any individual of that public, to propose to you questions like that which follows.

What is the full extent of the meaning of the term *elegant*?

I propose this question because I hear it every day used without being able to ascertain what those who use it mean by it, or whether with them it has any meaning at all. Sometimes it seems to be used for *beautiful*, at others for *grand*, and at others for *fine*: and for what at others, no one, it is presumed can tell. We often hear it said that F—— has a most *elegant face*; that the falls of Niagara are a most *elegant object*; that Miss B. wears a most *elegant ribband* on her hat; and I not long since heard a lady observe, that she had a most elegant tub of butter. Besides, we every day, and every evening, hear of elegant weather, and elegant evenings.—Please, sir, to inform your readers, what you believe to be the meaning of the word, and how it is to be distinguished from *beautiful*, *grand*, and *fine*?

A SUBSCRIBER.

* Not exactly, but that A Subscriber may have the same opportunity to instruct as to be instructed, we offer his inquiries to our readers, amongst whom, it is to be hoped, there may be some one who can give the desired information.

Ed.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

You have undoubtedly often witnessed the experiment of producing fire, by rubbing two pieces of wood against each other. It is a familiar experiment, and it has also been said that it was practised by the Indigenes when first visited by Europeans. I have often heard the question started, *How is this fire produced?* Some have said by friction alone, which others have denied: and no conjecture, that I have ever heard of, seems to have been generally received by the learned and reflecting, as offering a satis-

factory reason for an effect so extraordinary. I have often tried the process, and have always succeeded best with pieces of soft wood, either considerably porous and open, or so soft and spongy that it would rub up into little blisters, leaving artificial cavities, and a rough surface. Splinters of chestnut and linden, or chestnut and white cedar, from old fence-rails, have given me fire with less labor than any other wood that I have tried.

Has it ever occurred to you that the fire, in this process, is produced by mere compression and condensation of air? Exactly on the same principle as in the condensing apparatus now becoming pretty common for getting fire by a quick compression of atmospheric air? With a little tube and a piston, we force the air to yield its caloric, and in such quantities as to ignite the spunk or tinder, which we place in readiness, to receive and retain it in a burning state. In like manner, may it not be, that the air in the interstices and small cavities of the wood, yields its caloric by pressure and condensation, till by degrees the surfaces in contact become partially charred, more combustible, and at last take fire? Should you think these few observations worth the attention of your readers, please offer them to their consideration. C.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

Having lately returned from a long tour through the middle and western districts of this State, I have been often surprized at the relations that have been given me of what are called "*Honey Dews*." In many places in the counties west of the Hudson, proceeding from Newburgh and Kingston to the Susquehanna, I heard the inhabitants speak of Honey Dews as having frequently occurred of late, and of their apprehensions for the effect on the crops of grain. Returning, by another route, I have heard of a few instances of this singular, and to me, unaccountable phenomenon. Descending the Hudson, a few days since, I was informed by an intelligent gentleman from Ulster county, that great apprehensions were entertained by many for the crops of grain; and that Honey Dews are by no means a very rare occurrence in the country where he resides, though generally supposed to have an injurious effect on the crops, particularly of wheat and rye. So ignorant was I of this occurrence, that I do not recollect ever to have heard it named before; and since my return to this city, having eagerly enquired of several persons, from whom I expected immediate satisfaction, and with little success, I write to request the opinion of any of your scientific readers. What is Honey Dew; and what is known of its occurrence, and effects on vegetation? From the interest which I feel in these enquiries, prompted only by curiosity, I may suppose that excited by ideas of immediate pecuniary interest, joined, perhaps, by the same curiosity, to be very great: and as I saw your Magazine in the hands of a good many of the people on my abovementioned tour, I offer these hasty remarks for its pages. Since I began to write, a friend, to whom I mentioned my intention, has brought me an article on

the same subject, which he says was published in the New-York Magazine, in July, 1791. I send you this article, also, and hope you will publish them both.

During my tour, I frequently heard it observed by the farmers, that *blights* were supposed to be sometimes occasioned by the Honey Dew; and the gentleman from Ulster county assured me that there was every appearance of a blight upon many fields of grain in his neighbourhood this season, where the Honey Dew have been uncommonly frequent and copious. H.

New-York, July, 1815.

FROM THE NEW-YORK MAGAZINE.

Messrs. Swopes,

If all the phenomena of nature were faithfully registered, besides the satisfaction resulting to the public from novel relations, natural history would receive important additions.

On the 18th day of the last month, I was surveying in the woods about a mile west from Hudson's river, and eighty miles north of the city of New-York. At noon, the sky being perfectly clear, and the sun shining hot, I remarked that the whole forest glistened in a manner not less uncommon than beautiful.

I at first imagined it occasioned by either rain or dew, till, upon a moment's reflection, I found it could not be the former, as there was not a cloud to be seen, nor the latter, as it must long before have disappeared in a day so warm and serene. Some of the company declared they had observed similar appearances before, and called it *honey-dew*. Every green leaf on the trees, as well as those that were dry under our feet, were covered with a substance perfectly transparent, and in taste not inferior to dissolved sugar-candy. We could not refrain continually drawing the foliage between our lips to taste a syrup thus fresh from heaven.

The preceding night had been clear and still, and a small southern breeze blew all the morning. It is probable that this modern manna would have been discernible by the taste in the morning, but it was not noticed till the heat of the meridian sun inspissated and gave it the appearance of an elegant varnish.

I have seen accounts of this phenomenon in the Connecticut newspapers, which determine its extension above an hundred miles—perhaps it has covered a considerable part of North-America. When it is considered that every leaf of every tree, and each blade of grass upon the thousand hills of an extensive country was perfectly candied over with the purest sugar, palpable to the touch, visible to the eye, and poignant upon the palate, the quantity must have been prodigious.

June, 1791.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

I send you the following extract, and wish to see it preserved in your miscellany. It is so long since I have had it in my possession, that I have entirely forgotten the source from which I derived it.

AUGUST, 1815.

CLERIUS.

DEVOTION.

DEVOTION, considered simply in itself, is an intercourse betwixt us and God, betwixt the supreme, self-existent, inconceivable SPIRIT, which formed and preserves the Universe, and that particular Spirit, with which, for awful reasons, he hath anima-

ted a portion of *matter* upon earth, that we call man. It is a silent act, in which the soul divests itself of outward things, flies into heaven, and pours forth all its wants, wishes, hopes, fears, guilt, or pleasures, into the bosom of an *Almighty Friend*.

Though this devotion, in its first stages may be a wearisome or insipid exercise, yet this arises merely from the depravity of nature, and of our passions. A little habit will overcome this reluctance. When you have fairly entered on your journey, "the ways of this wisdom will be ways of pleasantness, and all its paths, peace."

True devotion, doubtless, requires a considerable degree of *abstraction* from the world. Hence too many of *modern* Christians treat it as a vision. Hence many modern writers have little of its unction. But it glows in the scriptures. It warms us in the fathers. It burned in an Austin, and in many other of those persecuted martyrs, who are now with God. That we *hear* little of this true devotion, is not wonderful. It makes no noise in the circles of the learned, or of the elegant. Under an heap of worldly cares, we *smother* the lovely infant, and will not let it breathe. Vanity, ambition, pleasure, avarice, quench the celestial fire. And these, alas! are too much the God of mortals. Ever since the world began, writers have been amusing us only with *shadows* of this piety, instead of giving its *soul* and *substance*. Superstition has placed it in opinions, ceremonies, austerities, pilgrimages, persecution, an august temple or splendid imagery, which had little connection with sentiment or spirit. Enthusiasm has swelled with unnatural conceptions, and obtruded a spurious offspring on the world, instead of this engaging child of reason and truth; whilst the luke-warm have rested in a few outward duties, which have had no vigor, and, as they sprung not from the heart, never entered the temple of the Most High.

Real piety is of a very different, and a much more *animated* nature. It looks up to God, sees, hears, feels him, in every event, in every vicissitude, in all places, in all seasons, and upon all occasions. It is theory vivified by experience. It is faith, *substantiated* by mental enjoyment. It is heaven transplanted into the human bosom. It is the radiance of the divinity, warming and encircling man. It is *spiritual* sense, gratified by *spiritual* sensations. Without this all ceremonies are efficacious.—Books, prayers, sacraments, and meditations, are but a body without a soul, a statue without animation.

That man is capable of such an intercourse with his MAKER, there are many living witnesses to prove. Without having recourse to the visions of fanatics, or the dreams of enthusiasts, it may be proved to spring from natural and philosophical causes. God is a Spirit; so is the mind. Bodies can have intercourse; so can souls. When minds are in an *assimilating* state of purity, they have union with their MAKER. This was the bliss of Paradise. Sin interrupted, and holiness must restore it. To a soul, thus disposed, the CREATOR communicates himself, in a manner which is as insensible to the natural eye, as the falling of dew;

but not less refreshing to its secret powers, than *that* is to vegetation.

The primitive Saints are describing this when they speak of their transports. David felt it, when he longed for God, as the hart panteth after the water brooks. St. Paul knew it, when he gloried in his tribulations. It was embodied in him, when he was carried up into the third heavens, and heard things, impossible to be uttered. St. Stephen was filled with it, when he saw the heavens open, and prayed for his murderers. By it, martyrs were supported, when they were stoned, and sawed asunder.— And until we feel it in *ourselves*, we shall never fully know how gracious the Lord is.

If you can acquire this spiritual abstraction, you may take comfort in a hope of a blissful eternity. It will be of little moment, what is your lot on earth, or what the distinguishing vicissitudes of your life. Prosperity, or adversity, health or sickness, honor or disgrace, a cottage or a crown, will all be so many instruments of glory. The whole creation will become a temple. Every event and every object will lead your mind to God; and in his greatness and perfections, you will insensibly lose the littleness, the glare and tinsel of all human things.

If I wished only to set off your *person* to the greatest advantage, I would recommend *this true sublime of religion*. It gives a pleasing serenity to the countenance, and a cheerfulness to the spirits beyond the reach of art, or the power of affectation. It communicates a real transport to the mind, which dissipation mimicks only for a moment; a sweetness to the disposition, and a *lustre* to the manners, which all the airs of modern politeness study but in vain. Easy in yourself, it will make you in perfect good humour with the world; and when you are diffusing happiness around you, you will only be dealing out the broken fragments that remain after you have eaten.

THE SHIP LIVE OAK, BLOWN UP.

We have received, from an intelligent correspondent on Long Island, a very interesting account of this melancholy occurrence, of which he was an eye witness, but at too late a date for this number of the Magazine. The Live Oak was bound to New-York, from Leith, with a cargo consisting of dry goods, 96 pipes gin, and 108 casks of gun-powder. When about 10 miles off Long Island, on Tuesday the 11th July, the wind fresh from the southward, she was perceived to be on fire in her run, and immediately her officers pronounced it impossible to stop the progress of the flames: The crew instantly left her in the boats, and soon reached the shore in the town of Southampton, the ship drifting directly after them, in a fearful blaze of fire. She struck on the bar, about a quarter of a mile from the shore, and burnt until 1 o'clock on Wednesday morning, when she blew up with a tremendous explosion that seemed to shake the ground like an earthquake.

Many pieces of her timbers were thrown on shore, at the distance of near 2 miles, with several hundred pieces of duck

and other cloths, scattered along the shore, where one of her anchors has also been found, about a quarter of a mile from the ship. The vessel, it is said, was owned by the Captain, Yarnall Yarrell, of Roanoke, North-Carolina.

August, 1815.

Ed.

LETTER FROM A RETURNED FRENCH EMIGRANT.

From a London Magazine of January, 1815.

SIR,—It is now just two-and-twenty years since I quitted France, laden with arms and baggage but with very little money; for those gentlemen, the Jacobins, took care to strip me of all I had. I often made an effort to return, and to prove to those who governed, as well as to their ministers, that I never had been away; but I must first find my proofs on pecuniary means. Nothing is so difficult to be proved as what a man says who is not worth a halfpenny. I could, I was sure, never make my proofs clear to these gentlemen, for I was maintained on the list of the emigrants. At length, by the greatest luck in the world, I was invalided, and struck off; on the first of March, by his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, in conjunction with his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, his Majesty the King of Prussia, and the Prince Regent of England, who wished to conduct all things in proper form. It was time, without doubt; for I was just on the point of being struck off the list of the living, by reason of the extreme misery to which the reversion of my property to national property had reduced me. I returned then in the packet to my native country on the 15th of April, quite overjoyed, as you may well believe, and I was not long before I saw Paris, the place of my nativity.

I found the city much improved in embellishments, I must say; and I think the produce of what I possessed formerly contributed to add to its beauty, and to raise those new monuments on the ruins of the ancient ones. I am fond of architecture, it is a fine art, and is pleasing to the eye of taste: but it has cost us dear. The fact is, I have nothing left to live on; and in the midst of the boldest designs, in the midst of new raised markets, we are not a bit better fed. I cannot, therefore, but feel true melancholy as I contemplate the different orders, Ionic, Doric, mixed, &c. which I find multiplied every where, as well as the bridges, which have certainly a fine effect over the Seine.

I had once a very good house near the ancient Chatelet: my first care was to walk that way, to cast a glance as I went along. We do not pay for looking, as the saying is. But how surprised was I to find, instead of my house, a fine fountain! throwing its clear waters to an immense height with a most agreeable murmur. I confess at first I shed a few tears at this change, and recollected that in this place of clear water, I had dispensed my wine of Chambertin and Champaign. However, as I reflected that this fountain must be very useful to the hackney coachmen of the neighborhood, for all the cooks in the quarter to wash their sallads in, and for all the inhabitants to drink, I considered the public interest, and dried my eyes with this consolation. I then washed my face, and in the hollow of my hand took a few drops of this water to drink, and to which I fancied I had some right: I found it very good, but in the present state of my stomach it was too cold. I retired, after having examined for a moment the column of this fountain. It is surmounted by a beautiful Goddess which I did not well recollect: I found her legs rather too long; but that is not a serious fault;—divine forms certainly do not resemble human forms. The great essential in a fountain is clear water.

While I was thus gazing on the wreck of my former property, I went to the rue St. Honore, where I had once a small house, which I used to let ready furnished, and where I fancied, perhaps, I might now lodge *incognito*. Well, Sir, instead of my house I found a fine street which led to the gardens of the Thuilleries. This opening, made in a straight line, I found extremely conve-

nient, especially for the inhabitants of La Place de Vendôme. Alas ! I could not help, however, regretting my house, which had been left me by a good aunt who tenderly loved me. I wished I could but see my house standing, though it might have been in the possession of a stranger. I submitted myself, however, to the interest of the public, who are as fond of fine streets as they are of fountains ; I recollected also, that time destroys all things ; but which according to my ideas, seems to destroy peculiarly quick in revolutions, where every one is occupied with the regeneration of mankind, and the application of the grand principles of philosophy.

I was not less disposed, notwithstanding my vexations, to go and return thanks to God for my happy return into the fine kingdom of France, for which I have always preserved the liveliest affection ; a tenderness which I inherit from my ancestors : they once founded a little chapel near the church of St. Charles : in this chapel are interred several of my relations, and it is filled with little monuments which attest their public and private virtues. I went to the chapel, my heart filled with sentiments of filial piety. Well, the chapel has disappeared ; and you will never guess, Sir, by what it has been replaced—by a sot's hole ! I could scarce believe my eyes. I was resolved, however, to see what a sot's hole was. I saw it was a place for smoking and swearing ; and I examined it no farther, but made a mental prayer and departed to the Thuilleries. I could scarce restrain my tears as I beheld these beautiful walks, which are the pride of the country and an honor to the arts. The place appeared to me more charming than ever, in thinking that it was now inhabited by that noble family which Providence had recalled to govern this delightful country. When I thought of the long suffering of our rulers I soon forgot my own ; and since every good Frenchman owes his life to his king, he owes him also his fortune when exigencies require. I renounced my wealth with cheerfulness : nor can we, according to my ideas, pay too dearly for our deliverance from that horde of banditti who have desolated France for five-and-twenty years, in making new streets, raising fine fountains, and speaking always of felicity, glory, grandeur, &c. so willing is rhetoric to pay compliments to human folly.

EDMUND DE ST. H—

ANECDOTES OF ILLUSTRIOUS FEMALES.

ARCH DUCHESS JOSEPHA, SIXTH DAUGHTER OF THE EMPRESS MARIA THERESA.

This young lady, who was eminent for her beauty, sweetness of manners, and the universal love of all who knew her, met her death in a manner the most singular and affecting.

On the 8th of September, 1767, she was betrothed to the King of Naples, and was already treated as a crowned head. Her elder sister, the Arch-Duchess Jane, formerly betrothed to him, had not long been consigned to the tomb, and the custom of the Empress, in visiting the burial place of her husband and daughter was well known : she requested the Princess Josepha to accompany her, for the last time, and perform her devotions at the tomb of her father and sister before she quitted Austria. The young Queen expressed an extraordinary repugnance, but the Empress persisted. When she got into the coach which was to convey her thither, she burst into tears, and while in the vault, she was taken with a dreadful shivering. On her return home she was seized with the small-pox, and died ; infected, no doubt, with the putridity from the coffin of the Empress Maria, late Princess of Parma, who died of that disorder, and whose body it was found impossible to embalm. It is said that Maria Caroline, afterwards Queen of Naples, shewed the greatest repugnance at marrying a prince, whose alliance, she declared, was fatal to the Austrian family.

WINIFRED, COUNTESS OF NITHSDALE.

This pattern of conjugal affection, was the means of her husband's escape, when he was committed to the tower in 1716 ; and when she heard of his

great anxiety to see her, she came to London, from her country residence, though the snow was then so deep that not a stage coach could make its way, and even the post was stopped.

On her arrival in town, she heard with joy, that the wives of those condemned to death, had permission the evening before to take their last farewell of their unfortunate husbands. Lady Nithisdale repaired to the tower, leaning on her two waiting maids, her face covered with a handkerchief, and looking the living image of despair. As soon as she arrived in the apartment where her lord was confined, she persuaded him, as he was of the same height as herself, to change clothes, and to go out, in the same manner as she had gone in: she added, that he would find a carriage which would convey him to the banks of the Thames, where a boat lay in waiting that would take him on board a vessel bound for France. The stratagem succeeded, Lord Nithisdale made his escape, and arrived at three o'clock the next morning at Calais. In two or three hours after, the prisoner was ordered to prepare for death; but the messenger was not a little surprised to find a woman instead of a man in the apartment. The affair soon took wing, and the lieutenant of the tower consulted the court to know what was to be done with Lady Nithisdale; he was ordered to set her instantly at liberty, but she refused to go out till she was provided with clothing suitable to her sex. She soon after joined her husband in France.

MADAME DU BOCCAGE.

This lady was equally celebrated for the charms of her person, the sweetness of her temper, and her great literary fame. Born without any extraordinary talents, the world was astonished at the patience and courage of a female, who, by dint of study and application, resolved to become a poet. Madame du Boccase however, had no occasion to fly to such a resource to gain admiration; she was much more sure of charming by the graces of her person and the excellence of her heart, than by those poems, the best of which were deficient in natural ease, and shewed a studied and heavy manner of composing. She was wealthy, and it was in her power to have collected together all the learned and witty in Paris, and to have formed her society from the literati. From what then, in so amiable and good a woman, could have arisen this mistake of talent, but the love of fame, so prevalent in the breasts of many mortals? Voltaire received Madame du Boccase, on her return from England, at his country seat; and crowned her with a wreath of laurel, while he had been tormenting himself all the day to make two or three couplets in her praise. Supper was served up, no verses yet made, and the author of the *Henriade*, in despair, called for laurel, and formed the crown, which, as he placed it on her head, he violated the rites of hospitality, by a grimace he made behind her back, and formed with his fingers the figure of a pair of horns. Yet was this good woman so blinded by her vanity, as to take all his burlesque, inflated praise, and pantomimic ceremony, as sterling truth, and sincere veneration of her great abilities!

REMARKABLE INSTANCE OF STAGE EFFECT.

In the year 1752, the famous David Ross had, during the Christmas holidays, been playing the character of *George Barnwell*, and Mrs. Pritchard that of *Milwood*. Dr. Barrowby, one the physicians belonging to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, told Ross, that three days after, he was sent for by a young gentleman in Great St. Helens, apprentice to a very opulent merchant. He found him very ill of a fever. The nurse told the Doctor that his patient frequently sighed bitterly, and she was sure he had something on his mind. After much intreaty on the part of the physician, the youth confessed he had something which lay very heavy on his heart, but that he had rather die than divulge it; as, if known, it would be his certain ruin. The Doctor assured him, that if he would confide it to him, he would do all in

his power to serve him, and that the secret, if he desired it, should be buried in his breast, or only told to those who could be able and willing to relieve him.

After some subsequent conversation, he told the doctor, that he was second son to a gentleman of good fortune in Hertfordshire, and that he had made an improper acquaintance with the mistress of an East India captain, then abroad. That in one year he should be out of his time; and he had been entrusted with cash, drafts, and notes to a considerable amount, from which he had purloined two hundred pounds. That three nights before, as he was at the play of *George Barnwell*, he was so forcibly struck, that he had not known a moment's quiet since. The doctor asked where his father was? He replied, that he expected him there every moment, as his master had sent for him as soon as he was taken so very ill. The doctor desired the young gentleman to make himself easy, as he would undertake, with his father, to make up matters; and in order to set the mind of his patient entirely at ease, he told him if his father would not advance the money he would.

On the arrival of the father, the doctor took him into an adjoining room, and explained the cause of his son's illness. With tears in his eyes, the old gentleman gave him a thousand thanks, and immediately went to his banker's for the money, while the doctor returned to his patient, and told him every thing would be settled to his satisfaction in a few minutes. When the father returned, he put the two hundred pounds into the hands of his son, and an affecting scene followed of tears and embraces between the parent and the child. The son soon recovered, broke off a connection which had nearly proved so fatal to him, and became in time, by his attention to business, one of the most opulent merchants in the city.

He was always punctual in his attendance at the benefit of Mr. Ross; who, though he never knew the name of his benefactor, constantly on that occasion received in the morning a note sealed up, containing ten guineas, and the following words:—

"A tribute of gratitude from one who was highly obliged, and saved from ruin, by seeing Mr. Ross's performance of *Barnwell*."

SOUTH OF FRANCE.—The following observations of a late Traveller in the South of France, occur in his remarks on the great characters which that country has produced. The name of Cassini, will awaken great recollections in the minds of readers for many ages yet to come. And it is interesting to most minds to accompany recent travellers in their notices of great men, and the scenes of great events. Ed.

Great men of the country.—This country has given birth to a number of celebrated men. Cassini, and the two Maraldi, his nephews, were natives of it. They all belonged to Perinaldo. John Dominicus Cassini was the restorer of astronomy in France, as Galileo was that of Italy, and Copernicus of Germany. It may not be uninteresting to mention some circumstances of the life and works of this celebrated astronomer. He was born in 1625, and after having finished his studies at Genoa, he devoted himself entirely to astronomy. He had made such progress in this science, that he was chosen professor of it in the university of Bologna, before he was twenty-five years of age. During his residence in that town, he traced his famous Meridian. By means of this admirable invention, the diurnal course of the sun could be observed, as he approached or retired from the zenith of the town. He bestowed such unremitting attention on this subject, that a celebrated astronomer could not help exclaiming—he was more than human. In consequence of the observations he made on this meridian, he published more correct tables of the sun than any that had appeared before that time. He determined the parallax of that planet, established the theory of the comets, and discovered four of the five satellites of Saturn: in short, there was

no branch of this sublime science, in which he was not profoundly skilled. His celestial occupations, however, did not prevent him from attending to terrestrial objects. The inundations of the Po caused frequent disputes between the inhabitants of Bologna and Ferrara. He regulated them to the satisfaction of both towns, and was in consequence made by them superintendant of that river.

Louis XIV. who was ambitious of every kind of glory, wished to draw Cassini into France, and accordingly ordered Colbert to write to him. Cassini replied to this invitation, that he could not accept the honour that was intended him, without the consent of the Pope, and the senate of Bologna.

The king supposing he could not succeed on these terms, requested them to allow him to reside a few years in France, which was granted.

Cassini arrived at Paris in 1669, and was received by Louis in the same manner that Sosigenes, when he was called to Rome to reform the Calendar of Numa, had been received by Cæsar. Some years afterwards the Pope and senate of Bologna demanded his return with considerable warmth: but Colbert disputed their authority with as much, and had the satisfaction of succeeding. Cassini married soon after, which was very agreeable to the king, who had the politeness to say to him, he was very happy to see him become a Frenchman for life.

He predicted in presence of the royal family, the course of the famous comet of 1680. He made a similar prediction at Rome in the presence of Queen Christina, with respect to the comet of 1664. Both of them followed the course he had traced.

Towards the latter part of his life, he lost his sight. The same misfortune happened to the celebrated Galileo. This made Fontenelle say, in the true spirit of fable, that these great men, who had made so many celestial discoveries, resembled Tiresias, who became blind in consequence of having seen some secret of the gods. He died in 1712, aged 87 years, without disease, without pain. His only infirmity was his loss of sight. His mind resembled his body. His temper was equal and mild, and never ruffled by those fretful irritations, which are the most painful, and most incurable of diseases.

There are still some families of his name in the country. In the church of Perinaldo there is a large picture, representing the souls in purgatory, of which he made a present to his country in 1663. The date is on the lower part of it. He was at that time professor at Bologna.

DIAMONDS.—"The largest diamond ever known in the world is one belonging to the Queen of Portugal which was found in Brazil; it is still uncut; it weighs 1,680 carats. This great gem must be worth 5,644,800*l.* sterling. The famous diamond which adorns the sceptre of the Emperor of Russia, under the eagle at the top of it, weighs 779 carats, and is worth 4,854,728*l.* although it hardly cost 150,000*l.* This diamond was one of the eyes of an idol, in the island of Seringham, in the Carnatic. A French grenadier, who had deserted from their Indian service, contrived so as to become one of the priests of the idol, from which he had the opportunity to steal its eye; he escaped from thence to Madras. A captain of a ship bought it for 20,000 rupees; afterwards a Jew gave about 18,000*l.* for it; at last a Greek merchant offered it for sale at Amsterdam in 1766, and the Russian Prince Orloff made this acquisition for the Empress of Russia. The next diamond is that of the Great Mogul, and is cut in rose; it weighs 279 carats, and is worth, being cut, 622,728*l.* Tavernier states it weighed, when rough, 793 carats; if so, its loss by cutting was very trifling. Another diamond of the Queen of Portugal, which weighs 215 carats, is very fine, and is worth, at least, 369,800 guineas. The diamond which belonged to the Grand Duke of Tuscany, now to the Emperor of Germany, weighs 193½ carats, but it has somewhat of a citron hue; and it is worth at least 109,250 guineas. Tavernier mentioned having

seen a diamond at Golconda, weighing $242\frac{5}{16}$ carats, for which he offered 400,000 rupees, but could not procure it under 500,000, about 62,500*l*. The diamond called the "Pitt," or "Regent," weighs $136\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and is considered worth about 208,333 guineas, although it did not cost above half that value. The diamond, called the "Pigot," weighs $47\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and is an extremely fine one; it was disposed of by the Pigot Family in 1800, by lottery, for 22,000*l*. which exceeds its value, according to Jefferies's mode of calculation.

LITERARY NOTICE.

THE AMERICAN HISTORIAN.

Since the lamented decease of the venerable RAMSAY, it is announced through the Charleston papers that he had, before his death, completed an UNIVERSAL HISTORY, which he was about to have offered to the American public, from whom there can be no doubt but it will now meet a favorable reception, not the less favorable because its author is no more. The following annunciation of the work, probably intended for immediate publication, has been found among the Doctor's papers, and will explain the extent and character of this interesting work:

"NOW READY FOR THE PRESS,

A Series of Historical Volumes, which, when finished, will assume the title of
UNIVERSAL HISTORY AMERICANISED;

OR

AN HISTORICAL VIEW OF THE WORLD,

From the earliest records to the 19th century, with a particular reference to the state of society, Literature, Religion, and form of Government in the United States of America.

By DAVID RAMSAY, M. D. ;

"Life is so short, and time so valuable, that it were happy for us, if all great works were reduced to their quintessence."

STR WILLIAM JONES.

"The Asiatic part of this Work contains a general view of the antediluvian—of the general deluge—of the re-settlement of the Globe after that event—of the primitive postdiluvian nations, which were formed in Asia, the cradle of the world—the various ramifications, revolutions, and of the general course of Empires.

"The African part contains a concise history of Egypt, Carthage, Numidia, Mauritania, Abyssinia, or the Piratical States and the Hottentots, with a grouped view of its uncivilized settlements.

"The European part contains the history of Greece and Rome, from their origin to their dissolution—of the various nations which were conquered by them, and of the nations by which the Romans themselves were finally conquered, and of the nations which were formed from the fragments of the Roman Empire, and the various revolutions of the latter together with a general view of the nations which never were subjected to the Romans.

"The American part contains a general history of the Western Continent under the heads of Free, European, and Aboriginal or unconquered America. The first contains a history of the United States, from their settlement as English Colonies till the present time—the second, of all parts dependent on Europe—and the third, of all that are still owned by the Aborigines.

"It is expected that the whole will be comprehended in 10 or 12 volumes of about 500 pages each—to be printed on good paper and with good types; and offered for sale, bound in boards, for 3 dollars each volume; or neatly bound for 3 dollars 50 cents.

"This work has been in contemplation upwards of forty years.—The project was conceived in 1768, on reading the Universal History, then recently

edited, in 60 volumes, by a Society of Gentlemen in England. The original idea of extracting the quintessence of that voluminous work, which contained the most complete system of history the world had then seen, has ever since been enlarging and improving by an attentive perusal of the histories written by Robertson, Hume, Gibbon, and other modern authors—of the Asiatic researches—of the works of Sir William Jones, and other learned Orientalists—the publications of intelligent travellers, who in the course of the last half century have explored almost every region of the globe. These collectively have thrown a blaze of light on countries comparatively unknown, and on portions both of ancient and modern history, which were confused and obscure at the period when the writers of the Universal History published their work. The arrangement of materials collected from these sources, commenced in the year 1780, when in consequence of the surrender of Charleston to Sir Henry Clinton, the author was suddenly released from a sea of business, and sent as a British prisoner of war to the British garrison in St. Augustine, and there confined for eleven months, without any peculiar employment. Steady progress has been made for the last ten years in correcting and transcribing the work for publication.

“The History of the United States is given at full length—that of foreign countries is more or less expanded in proportion to the intrinsic importance of each—its tendency to illustrate portions of Holy Writ—the Greek and Latin Classics—and also in proportion to its connexion with the United States, or as furnishing useful practical information to its citizens, or as the paternal soil of their ancestors.

The Hon. TAPPING REEVE, of Litchfield, Connecticut, who has recently resigned the office of Judge of the Superior Court of the United States, has issued proposals for publishing an octavo volume, containing 500 pages, on the domestic relation of husband and wife, parent and child, guardian and ward, master and servant.

A New and Interesting Work. We are authorised to state, that a new work is very nearly ready for the press, to be entitled,

“Observations on the states of New-England and New-York, made during a series of journeys from 1796 to 1813, by the Rev. Dr. Dwight, president of Yale College.”

These observations, we understand, relate to the topography, soil, climate, agriculture, commerce, manufactures, settlement, jurisprudence, manners, learning, morals, religion, &c. of these states. *Com. Adv.*

ACCIDENT AT WEST-POINT.

In firing minute guns at West-Point, as a mark of respect for the memory of Brig. Gen. J. Williams, on the 29th of May last, one of them went off while a Mr. Paine was in the act of ramming home the cartridge, in consequence of which the young man lost his arm.

The frequency of such accidents has put me upon an enquiry into the cause. It has been generally supposed that some latent spark is left in the gun attached to the remains of the old cartridge, and thus communicates fire to the new cartridge. Acting on this supposition, cartridges have been made of flannel, the vent of the gun perfectly sealed while the gun is sponged, and the sponge kept wet. In the present case, “every possible precaution (as is usually the case here) was taken. The cartridges were flannel, the sponge wet, and no blame can possibly be attached to the young gentlemen who attended the vent, as he continued to hold his thumb on the touch-hole till the gun recoiled.”

Now this is precisely the reason why the cartridge took fire; and I am rather surprised that the gentlemen of West-Point should not have conceived of this idea before. When I first suspected this to be the cause of

the kindling of the cartridge, I immediately instituted some experiments, to satisfy myself.

I took a condenser, with a piston representing the sponge of a gun, and having put some grains of powder in the end, I suddenly forced it home to condense the air on the powder, but it was impossible to fire it. Then I put along with the powder a small piece of cotton cloth, and condensed the air as before, but could not fire the powder. The third experiment succeeded; for upon impregnating the cotton with a solution of salt-petre in water, and making it perfectly dry, I put some grains of powder among it, and upon condensing the air in the cylinder as before, it took fire, and threw the piston against my hand with considerable violence. This experiment I repeated many times, and always with the same result. I therefore consider the question decided, that upon driving home a cartridge, with the vent of a gun stopped, especially if the gun be a little warm, that the sudden condensation of the air, and its sudden rarefaction, actually fires some part of the cartridge.

If it be paper it may be easily done; but if flannel, I am inclined to think it must take fire upon the thread, which is either cotton or linen, and thus these fatal accidents occur:

Essex Register.]

AN OLD FARMER.

An Account of the present Translation of the Bible.

It may, perhaps, be amusing to some of your readers, to be acquainted with the manner in which the translation of the Bible, now in use, was performed. I send you an account of it, extracted chiefly from Selden's Table Talk, which, as it displays the great care used to render it faithful and correct, deserves, I think, to be more generally known. This translation was made at the command of King James I.; the translators were fifty-four of the most learned men of that time, who were divided into five bodies, of which each was to labour upon a particular part of the Bible, which was thus divided: the Pentateuch, and the books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, and Kings, to the Deans of Westminster and St. Paul's, Doctors Saravia, Clark, Layfield, Leigh, Messrs. Stretford, Sussex, Clare, Bedwell. From the Chronicles to Ecclesiastes, to Dr. Richardson, and Messrs. Sirley, Chadderton, Dillingham, Harrison, Andrews, Spalding, Binge. All the Prophets and Lamentations, to Drs. Harding, Reynolds, Holland, Kilby, Messrs. Hereford, Brett, Fareclowe. All the Epistles, to the Dean of Chester, Drs. Hutchinson, Spencer, Messrs. Fenton, Rabbit, Sanderson, Dakins. The Gospels, Acts, and Apocalypse, to the Deans of Christ-church, Winchester, Worcester, Windsor, Drs. Perin, Ravina, Messrs. Savile, Harmer. And the Apocrypha, to Drs. Duport, Braithwaite, Ratcliffe, Messrs. Ward, Downes, Boyse, Warde. They met at Westminster, Oxford, and Cambridge, as it was convenient for each body. The method in which they proceeded was this: several translations of each part were drawn up by the members of that body to which it was allotted, who then, in a joint consultation, selected three of the best, or compiled them out of the whole number. Thus, in three years, three translations of the whole were sent to London; then six deputies, two from each place, were appointed to extract one translation out of the three, which was finished and printed in the year 1611.

N. Brit. Mag.

POWER OF CONSCIENCE.—The following extracts from American, and a foreign Journal, are preserved here as evidences of the power of conscience.

MONEY LOST IN THE MAIL.

A letter has been received by the Postmaster General, covering a considerable sum, and stating that the amount was taken from a letter written by or to John Dale, dated at Philadelphia, and addressed to Augusta, Georgia, be-

tween 1798 and 1801, and requesting that it may be paid to the proper person.

General Post Office, April 30, 1815.

We are happy to learn that the money (amounting to 500 dollars) taken from the mail in the year 1799, and lately returned to the General Post Office, has been ascertained to belong to the estate of Robert Oakley, deceased, of this city, and has been transmitted to the Postmaster, to be paid to the executors of Mr. Oakley.

Philadelphia, June, 1815.

The following remarkable letter, with 36s. 6d. inclosed, was received by the Collector of Excise at Halifax :

"SIR—Having some time since, by dealing in smuggled goods, gained the sum of 1l. 16s. 6d. and being since convinced of the sinfulness of this business, it being contrary to the law of God as well as man; and as the duties of religion require restoration, I inclose you herein the said sum, which desire you will apply to his Majesty's service ;—and am, Sir, Yrs. &c.

"ANONYMOUS."

New Bradford, Sept. 11, 1792.

VACCINATION.

We copy the following articles from the January Number, for this year, of the European Magazine, in the humble hope that their publication here may be productive of some good in this country. Deeply impressed with the importance of the discovery of Vaccination, and fearful lest the success of it as a preventative for the small-pox, *when duly used*, should lull too many into a fancied security, we take this occasion to call the public attention. It should be remembered that to extirpate the small-pox, and derive from vaccination the fullest assurance of security from that dreadful disease, every body must be vaccinated. The small-pox is still lurking amongst us, and probably will long continue to do so, from our neglect. It is unwise to neglect the means which Providence has thus put in our power, till by the general neglect which prevails, we may be hastily summoned to the grave, or live to witness the dreadful ravages of a disease so formidable. Who would have failed to use the means of security which we now enjoy, against the danger of small-pox, had the same terms been offered him before the discovery of Jenner ?

Ed.

NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT.

At a Board, holden on the 6th day of October, 1814.

Resolved—That there be three classes of Vaccinators, namely, *Stationary, Extraordinary, and Corresponding.*

That the vaccinators of each class be members of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

That every Vaccinator retain his office during the pleasure of the Board: and upon such conditions as the Board shall, from time to time, judge proper.

That *Stationary* and *extraordinary* Vaccinators be chosen by the Board.

That *Corresponding* Vaccinators be appointed by the Board: or by the inhabitants of distant parishes or districts.

That the present *Stationary* Vaccinators be continued, upon the remunerative conditions under which they were chosen, until the Board shall otherwise determine.

That *Extraordinary* Vaccinators be resident within, or in the vicinity of the metropolis: and, that each of them be expected to sign a copy of the following form of engagement :

"I hereby engage as Extraordinary Vaccinator of the national Vaccine establishment, to vaccinate, gratuitously, the infant poor, and other proper objects, who shall apply, or be presented to me, for Vaccination: to promote, to the utmost of my power, the practice of Vaccination: and, upon every occasion, to act conformably to the instructions which I have received, or which I may receive, from the Board of the establishment."

That *Corresponding* Vaccinators be resident in the United Kingdom and its dependencies; not in the vicinity of the metropolis: and that, whether appointed by the inhabitants of parishes, or districts, or by the Board, each of them be expected to keep a register of the persons whom he shall vaccinate, with remarks upon interesting occurrences; and, annually, to communicate a summary thereof to the Board of the establishment.

That every *Corresponding* Vaccinator be allowed copies of the printed directions of the Board relating to Vaccination, and to supplies of Vaccine Lymph, upon due application to the Board.

That a list of the members and officers of the Board, and of the Vaccinators under the three distinct heads, be annually printed: that a copy thereof be sent to each of such persons; and that copies be otherwise distributed, according to the directions of the Board, for the public information and benefit.

That to induce the appointment of *Corresponding* Vaccinators, and, also, otherwise to further the designs of the establishment, an advertisement, in the following terms, be inserted in such public papers, and be otherwise printed and circulated, as the Board shall from time to time direct: and that such advertisement have the signatures of the members of the Board.

NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT.

The Board of the national Vaccine establishment, under the authority of government—in pursuance of their duty, to extend, by all possible means, the practice of Vaccination, and, thereby, to accelerate the extermination of small pox from this nation, as, happily, has already been effected in some countries where, before the introduction of Vaccination, that disease was prevalent and generally destructive—do recommend to the inhabitants of parishes in the United Kingdom and its dependencies, not in the vicinity of the metropolis, to appoint so many members of the Royal College of Surgeons in London as may be judged expedient, *corresponding Vaccinators* of the national Vaccine establishment: who shall each be expected to vaccinate, gratuitously, the infant poor, and other proper objects, inhabitants of the district to which he shall be appointed: to keep a register of the persons whom he shall vaccinate, with remarks upon interesting occurrences; and, annually, to communicate a summary thereof to the Board of the establishment, addressed to "Dr. HERVEY, *National Vaccine Establishment, Leicester-square*," under cover to "THE RIGHT HON. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT, *Whitehall*."

And every person who shall be appointed as herein is recommended, will be recognized by the Board as a *Corresponding Vaccinator* of the National Vaccine establishment: and will, accordingly, receive, free of expence, the printed directions of the Board relating to Vaccination: and, at all times, necessary supplies of Vaccine Lymph.

The Board, also, earnestly solicit the enlightened and benevolent Clergy of the United Kingdom and its dependencies, to exhort their parishioners favourably to receive, and justly to estimate, the blessing providentially pointed out for immediate security against the infection of small pox, and, eventually, for the total eradication of that contagious, loathsome, and fatal disease: and, particularly, to impress upon their minds, the special duty of the directors of institutions for the benefit of infant poor, to obtain for the objects of their charitable attention, timely and proper Vaccination.

And the Board solemnly call upon all persons, especially the Magistrates of the United Kingdom, as they value the lives of human beings, to use their influence and authority in preventing the exposure of persons having

upon them small pox; and, so far, in arresting the propagation, and forwarding the extinction, of that pestilential malady.

JOHN LATHAM, M. D.	} Censors.	President of the Royal College of Physicians.
HENRY AINSLIE, M. D.		
JAMES HAWORTH, M. D.		
THOMAS HUME, M. D.		
H. J. CHOLMELEY, M. D.	} Governors.	
WILLIAM BLIZARD,		Master of the Royal College of Surgeons.
HENRY CLINE,		
WILLIAM NORRIS,		
		JAMES HERVEY, M. D. Registrar.

Board-Room, Leicester-square, October 6, 1814.

VACCINATION IN FRANCE.

The King has placed at the disposal of his Home Minister certain funds for the remuneration and encouragement of Vaccinators; viz. a first prize of the value of 3000 francs, two second prizes of the value of 2000 francs, and three others of 1000 francs each, to be given proportionally to those who have vaccinated in the most extensive and successful manner; besides 100 medals for the encouragement of those who addict themselves exclusively to the practice and improvement of Vaccination—These prizes and rewards are to be distributed annually.

Paris, Sept. 1814.

Mr. Duvalland, a Frenchman, has calculated that the mean duration of human life is increased at least *three years* by the Vaccine Inoculation.

P. April, 1815.

"THE VELVET CUSHION."

(Concluded from page 63)

We pass over a great many good things which we would gladly present to our readers, and from the history of the present Pastor's predecessors, select that of BERKELY, with which we must close our extracts.

CHAPTER XIII.

Berkely was the son of parents, who, though both religious, differed widely in the complexion of their character. His father was a man of high and elastic spirits—attracted by large objects, and pursuing them with ardor, courage, and self-devotion. He looked over the world with a cheerful and thankful eye—saw good in every thing, and wondered that the servants of so good and merciful a God should ever find cause for sorrow or complaint. The mother of *Berkely*, on the contrary, was a person of low, reflective, nervous temperament,—easily depressed—discerning evils at an incredible distance, and peopling earth, sea, skies, with visionary alarms. Had not the star of religion shone in upon the dark chambers of her mind, her gloom might have ended in despair. I describe the parents the more minutely, because I think that *Berkely* inherited some of the qualities of each—or rather their compound character. In him, that life and joy, and energy, which surrounded the father as a sort of perpetual atmosphere, only gleamed occasionally when called out by certain great objects—by the society of those he loved, by the splendid scenery of nature, or by the grand themes of religion. Then, indeed, so much more of intellect mingled with his sensations, that his joy took a nobler flight, and soared into regions denied to a less vigorous mind. At other times, the spirit of his mother seemed to descend upon him; and a state of depression followed—of depression, however, which by exhibiting him, as it were, amidst the fires of affliction, served to display some of the most touching as well as majestic features of his character. It indicated, however, some hidden disease; and perhaps predicted the somewhat premature death that removed him from his friends. From both his

parents he inherited the most exalted piety. Not, indeed, that religion descends in the blood, for the most pious parents often leave no representatives of their virtues; nor did he receive it as a sort of heir-loom and family portion; for few minds were of a more deliberative and scrupulous cast. But seeing it from his infancy, under his paternal roof, surrounded with generous and lofty qualities, his earliest prejudices were on the side of religion, his earliest studies were in pursuit of it, and his earliest decisions in its favor. But, Sir, as many of my former communications may have appeared somewhat querulous,—as I am anxious to redeem my character before we part (the Vicar here pressed the finger and thumb together which held the remaining pages of the memoir, and was shocked to feel how few they were)—as both you and I love praise, I trust, better than blame,—as; moreover I wish to bear my testimony to the best man, except *one*, that ever possessed the living; I am resolved to shew you him in various and distinct views, so that the whole man may pass before you.

“Who can the ‘one’ be,” said the Vicar.

“There can be no doubt on that point,” rejoined his lady. But he unfortunately left her no time to tell us the secret, and read on.

“In order, Sir, to shew you, as it were, the key-stone of the opinions and character of Berkely, I must state to you one circumstance. From a child he had been remarkable for the most ardent attachment to his father. That name comprehended in it all that was in his eyes venerable and delightful. Hence, filial affection had become with him, not merely a feeling, but a principle. He hoped much of every man who ardently loved a good parent. He feared every thing in one who did not. Often have I seen the tear start from his eye as he read the history of Joseph; and the blood mantle in his cheek as he read that of Absalom. And such was the power of this master feeling, that it gave a peculiar character even to his religion. For, of all the men I ever saw, he most delighted to represent *God* under the image of a *father*. It was to him the most honorable and interesting of all titles, and he transferred it to the being whom he best loved. You will soon perceive how much this peculiar feeling shaped and coloured all his opinions and practice.”

The old Vicar could scarcely find words to express his delight at this statement, so completely did the views of his devout predecessor harmonize with his own.

“Happy,” said he, “the father of such a child. But let us proceed.”

“This peculiar feeling, as I said, Sir, gave a peculiar complexion to all his religious opinions. Thus it inclined him, I think, though he very rarely spoke upon the subject, to that system of religion which represents God as equally disposed to save *all* his creatures. The *Father* of the world was not likely, he thought, to have set aside, or past over, any part of his earthly family. In like manner, it led him to dwell with peculiar emphasis, upon the features of *mercy* in the character of God. In the conduct of a father, the quality of love would be sure to predominate; and Berkely ever seemed to be searching out, even in the darkest of the divine dispensations, some ray of compassion, which bespoke a parental hand. ‘Even (he would say) amidst the monuments of wrath which sadden the face of the universe, I discern both in man, and in the world he inhabits, many splendid relics of a nobler creation. It is indeed a world of ruins, but of ruins diversified and ennobled by many a lofty pillar, designating the majesty of the original edifice. Look even at the most signal examples of divine vengeance, and love will always be seen sheathing or tempering the sword of justice. When, for instance, the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and a flood swept the face of a guilty world; even then, the ark surmounted the waters, and restored the only pious family to an unoccupied globe.—Did the waves of the Red sea close in upon the hosts, and engulf the chariots of guilty Egypt? behold a whole people, with their flocks and herds, preserved upon the banks of that very sea, as if to shew, that ‘in judgment God remembers mercy!’—Did the vault of heaven blaze with unusual fires, and empty its burning deluge on

the profligate cities of the plain? There, also, the solitary servant of God is seen walking unhurt upon the fiery soil, and amidst the atmosphere of death. Even when the earth shook—when the face of heaven was darkened—when the veil of the temple was rent, and the groans of nature proclaimed the just anger of God,—a voice of mercy was heard amidst the clamors and agonies of the universe—‘to day shalt thou be with me in Paradise;’ and the Son of God ascended to his father, not dragging at his chariot wheel thousands of his persecutors, but bearing in his arms one poor criminal rescued from the cross.’ But, Sir, I must not indulge myself in recording the sayings of this good man. His language was like that of one who had been placed in the clefts of the rocks, while the divine glory passed by; who had seen, indeed, the majesty of God; but had heard him proclaim’d as a God of ‘long-suffering’ and of ‘tender mercy.’ It is enough to say that he pleaded for God in the face of a negligent world, as a son would plead for the honors and rights of a revered parent. And many were the hearts which, though unsubdued by terrors, melted under the ray of his tenderness and love.

‘This same fact, to which I have referred, perhaps also, in some measure, assisted to guide his judgment in matters of controversy. His impression was, that, as the child had no right to hope he should comprehend all that was intelligible to the matured wisdom of a parent, far less should man presume to dive into the mysteries of God. This at once taught him to prefer carrying the balance, rather than the sword, amidst contending parties in religion. In his days, for instance, as it was much the fashion to dispute upon the inexhaustible topics of Calvinism and Arminianism, it was desired and expected of all to enlist themselves on one side or the other. And, as his father inclined to the former hypothesis, he was naturally expected to break his lance in favor of the divine decrees. But the young divine soon manifested a disposition, rather to silence, than to controversy upon this disputed point. This encouraged the opposite party to range him under their banner. But here, again, his bias was rather to temper the warmth of others, than to display his own. It was not that he failed to comprehend the nature of the controversy—or that he viewed any topic of religion with indifference—or that he did not discover in the sacred volume passages favorable to each system. But he soon discovered that this controversy had fruitlessly occupied the attention, and harassed the spirits, of good men, in almost every age, and under every system of religion; and that it was not likely to be decided till ‘men shall know even as they are known.’ He thought the more ardent champions, on either side, generally wrong—inasmuch as both inclined to substitute their own system for the simple creed of scripture, and to twist its straight letter into all the windings of human philosophy. He, therefore, took part entirely with neither—but taught modesty and charity to both.

In general, his manner in the pulpit was rather mild and paternal than energetic. But there were times, and those not a few, when a new spirit seemed to animate him. His favorite theme was the happiness of the saints in glory; and he really spoke of heaven as though he had been there. I have now his figure before me, as he rose up to address his congregation the first time after the death of his father.—No event had touched him at a more vital point. But, although as he mounted the pulpit, a sort of cheerless cloud hung upon his brow, in a short time a ray from heaven seemed to disperse it. He was not afraid to touch the chord which might be expected to awaken all the anguish of his soul. Others wept—but he was calm. He spoke of death, but it was of the death of the righteous, and of the blessedness which follows it. Such was the impression of the scene, that as his hearers watched his glowing eye, his grey hair, his peaceful smile, his uplifted hand, his lighted countenance—and saw him, as it were, launch into other worlds, and bring back their spoils to enrich himself in this—withdrawing the veil from the sanctuary—speaking of things to come as present, they looked at him almost as they would at St. John rising from the dead, to add another scene to his celestial visions.”

Circular Letter of the Literary and Philosophical Society of New-York.

(Concluded from p. 66.)

19. An account of birds, whether migrating or resident; the periods of their arrival and departure; their habitudes and uses.

20. Natural history of plants, and their kinds, whether noxious or useful, native or naturalized; time of introduction; their progress, qualities, and diseases, and the best mode of extirpating those which are injurious.

21. Climate; the effect of clearing and cultivation on climate; meteorological observations; marriages and births; bills of mortality; longevity; histories of epidemic maladies; diseases among men and other animals; crimes; suicide.

22. The state of the learned professions—of morals—of religion and of learning—the number of academies and schools, how supported, and the mode of instruction; charitable institutions; humane and literary associations; improvements in arts and sciences; inventors of curious machines; useful discoveries; distinguished characters; printing presses; book stores; public libraries; scarce books; valuable manuscripts; customs and manners; the progress of luxury.

23. The state of population at different periods, and in reference to the place of birth, age, religious persuasion, occupation and residence, whether in town, village, or country; the number of houses.

24. The militia: their numbers, organization, arms, ammunition, and mode of equipment; arsenals, magazines, powder-mills, founderies, fortifications.

25. Mendicity: the condition of the poor and the expense and mode of supporting them; alms-houses, hospitals, penitentiaries—the state of slavery.

26. Taxes, the amount and kinds paid for the use of the town, county, state and United States; the public buildings, and other public improvements: the income and expenditures of incorporated villages and towns; the sources and objects.

27. Antiquities, whether aboriginal or colonial; curiosities whether natural or artificial; drawings and descriptions of whatever is interesting in those respects, especially of ancient fortifications and tumuli, ascertaining the materials composing them; their contents, and the purposes for which they were probably designed.

28. Meteors, comets, eclipses, earthquakes, tornadoes, tempests, inundations, volcanic eruptions, seasons of extreme heat and cold, or other remarkable events in the natural world; the present variation of the magnetic needle and what it has been formerly, and at what places observed.

29. Miscellaneous observations not comprehended in the above.

You will, Sir, at once perceive the important and comprehensive view which the society intend to take of the state of the country; it will embrace whatever relates to our climate, soil, cultivation, husbandry, manufactures, commerce, education, learning, population, occupations, police, manners, morals, religious principles, geography, history, geology, mineralogy, zoology, botany and diseases; it purposes to examine with anatomical accuracy the internal structure of society, to illustrate that most important science political philosophy, and to collect such useful and practical information on the various subjects connected with individual and social prosperity, as may have a tendency to promote the solid and permanent interests of America.

Sir John Sinclair published a statistical account of Scotland, drawn up from the communications of the ministers of the different parishes made to him in consequence of a variety of queries circulated among them, for the purpose of elucidating the natural history and political state of that country. Scotland is divided into nine hundred and fifty parochial districts; in less than eighteen months from the time of circulating the queries among the clergy, reports were received from above one half the number; in three or four years the whole work was completed, and it has been emphatically

said of this great survey, "that no publication of equal information and curiosity has appeared in Great-Britain since Doomsday-book, and that from the ample and authentic facts which it records, it must be resorted to by every future statesman, philosopher and divine, as the best basis that has ever yet appeared for political speculation."

This state contains forty seven counties, and about five hundred towns : we are persuaded that every town contains a sufficient number of intelligent men, to furnish the information required, and that nothing more is necessary than for them to devote to this important object those few hours which can always be spared from the ordinary occupations of life. The state is atlantic and western : it borders on the ocean and some of the great lakes ; the greatest rivers in North America flow, and vast chains of mountains pass through it. In extent, population, commerce, opulence and power, it stands at the head of the union ; and it is believed that no country in the world, furnishes more fertile subjects for the researches of the naturalist, the investigations of the philosopher, and the speculations of the politician.

By order, and in behalf of the Society,

DE WITT CLINTON, PRESIDENT.

N. B. Specimens of minerals, and other subjects of natural history, will be thankfully received and deposited in the cabinet of the society.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

Having seen many observations published, on the great heats during July last, and presuming that many of them are very incorrect, I send the result of my observations, made on the 30th day of that month. My object is to show the effect of various positions, and how these affect the temperatures, recorded by different observers. At noon, 80°, in a shade, open all around, in a free circulation of air ; at 1 P. M. in the garret, under a slate-roof, 100° ; at 2 P. M. in a shady arbor, in the garden, 8 feet from the ground, 76° ; at 3 P. M., hanging in the Sun, 20 feet from the arbor, the same height from the ground, 108°. After all these trials, again restored to the place first mentioned, the thermometer indicated 82°, till near 4 o'clock, when it began to fall.

ZERO.

'THE TRAVELLER'S DIRECTORY.'

Among all the Publications of late, on Topographical and Geographical subjects that have fallen into our hands, and they are very numerous, we have found no one of more extensive usefulness, than 'The Traveller's Directory through the United States,' compiled and published by John McIlish, of Philadelphia. It comprises a series of brief and well digested geographical remarks on the United States, and on each State and Territory separately ; with Topographical and Statistical Tables, formed from the Census of 1810 ; and a Description of all the principal Roads, and routes of travel, with the distances in miles, arranged on the plan of the best Itineraries or Road Books of England. To the last division, there is a copious Index ; and the whole Work is illustrated by a very handsome, and apparently pretty accurate Map of about 18 by 13 inches, on bank-note paper. It is handsomely bound, in a neat 12mo. vol. of about 90 pages, and cost 2 dollars. It would be easy to point out errors in this Work ; but this being a first edition, and as the Compiler has introduced it with becoming modesty, we rather choose to commend it to our Readers, and leave it to them, as he has requested, to aid him in correcting every error, and in amending it in every part. We deem this enterprise a very useful one to the public, and most sincerely hope the Compiler may be well rewarded for his labour, which must have been very great.

ROBERT SOUTHY, Esq. Poet Laureate of Great Britain, has published a Letter, dated June 16, 1815, in which he declares that he did not write certain criticisms on Inliquin's Letters, attributed to him by the American writer of 'The United States and England,' nor any of the offensive arti-

cles on American affairs, which have appeared in the Quarterly Review, of which he informs he is not the Editor.

Sir WALTER SCOTT.—The poetry of Walter Scott, is probably as much read in this country as in England, and we hasten to inform our Readers that this popular Poet has lately been knighted by the Prince Regent. He is married, to an illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Devonshire, with whom he got about 44000 dollars, a warm prize, and a rich one for a poet.

A TABLE

Of the Lengths and Heights of the principal Cathedrals in England & Wales.

Cathedral.	Length from East to West.	Height of the Mid. Towers, Lan- thorns, or Spires.	Height of the West Towers, or Spires.
	Fect.	Fect.	Fect.
Canterbury,	514	235	{ 100 N. W. Spire. 130 S. W. Tower.
Chichester,	410	270	107
Ely,	517	170	270
Gloucester,	420	225	...
Hereford,	370	240	130
Lichfield,	411	258	183
Lincoln,	498	288	270
London, St. Paul's,	500	356	221
Norwich,	411	315	...
Peterborough,	480	150	...
Salisbury,	452	400	...
Winchester,	554	133	...
Worcester,	410	196	...
York	498	213	196

MARTIN LUTHER.

The sermon preached at the opening of the exquisite organ at Canterbury attributes the composition of the Hundreth Psalm to this intrepid and able reformer. It was most assuredly the composition of Dr. Bull. Martin Luther, indeed, set to music a German hymn—"Fast burgh is Got."—God is my strong defence,—which he sung himself when he entered Worms to meet the Emperor Charles the fifth, and which is still sung in the Lutheran churches in unison with great effect. Wonderful, indeed, is the effect of many voices in unison. A remarkable instance of their effect is mentioned by the ingenious Dr. Burney in his Musical Travels (that entertaining and well-arranged book, which the late Dr. Johnson told his friends he had always an eye to in his voyage to the Hebrides), "Article Venice," where the sensation occasioned by the unison of three thousand voices is described. Travellers all agree in their account of the effects of the simple air called "The Virgin's Hymn," sung in unison by the whole crew of the Sicilian seamen on board their ships when the sun sets, or when it is the twenty-fourth hour of Italy.—The words are merely,

"O sanctissima! O piissima! dulcis Virgo Maria, mater amata, intemera-
ta, ora pro nobis.

"O spotless Virgin, mother dear,
"Thou holy pious Virgin hear;
"To thee our suppliant lays we pour,
"For wretched fallen man implore."

[Extracted for the American Magazine.]

A HARVEST TALE.

"O FATHER, dear father! lament now with me,
This morning I've been at our wood,
And the fine flowing leaves of your favourite tree
Around on the grass are all strew'd.

And sure 'tis a pity! for lovely and green,
 All summer they yielded a shade,
 Dear father, to you, who against it would lean,
 While sister and I round it play'd.

Of late they began to change colour indeed,
 Like the corn when 'tis ripe on the field;
 And the dark glossy green became yellow and red,
 As if they ripe berries would yield:
 I thought this was pretty, and ne'er heard you say
 That the leaves would soon fall from the tree;
 And I never was happier than t'other fine day,
 When you look'd there at sister and me."

"Why, my boy, I am griev'd at the tale you have told,
 But the leaves every year drop around,
 They are green when in youth, and turn red when they're old,
 Then the wind blows them down to the ground.
 But take comfort, my boy, when the winter is fled,
 The leaves will appear on the tree,
 And again form a bower thy father to shade,
 And the gambols of sister and thee."

"Why that's good:—but, my father, I've sad news to tell,
 Old *William*, who liv'd at Hillside,
 And lately came hither, so wan and so pale,
 Old William this morning hath died."
 "Old William hath died! Ah! indeed, I am sad;
 But age, when it ripens, must fall;
 Though green was his summer, his autumn must fade;
 Such, my boy, is the end of us all."

"Then he falls like the leaves of your favourite tree:
 But when the long winter is o'er,
 Old William again on the hill shall we see
 A-feeding his flocks, as before?
 Ah no! my sweet boy;—the dead wander no more
 In the bounds of this wind-wasted scene;
 But to regions immortal all good spirits soar,
 More lovely, more lasting, and green."

A.P.S.

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER.

[*A picture from the life.*]

DEEP in a vale, a stranger now to arms,
 Too poor to shine in court, too proud to beg,
 He who once war'd on Saratoga's plains
 Sits musing o'er his scars and wooden leg.
 Rememb'ring still the toil of former days,
 To others' hands he sees his earnings paid;
 They share the due reward—he feeds on praise,
 Lost in the abyss of want, misfortune's shade.
 Far, far from domes where splendid tapers glare,
 'Tis his from dear-bought PEACE no wealth to win,
 Remov'd alike from country cringing 'squires,
 The great man's levee, and the proud man's grin.
 Sold are those arms that once on Britain's blaz'd,
 When flush'd with conquest to the charge they came:
 That power repell'd, and Freedom's fabric rais'd,
 She leaves her soldier—FAMINE and a NAME!

ON CRUELTY TO BEASTS.

"The righteous man regardeth the life of his beast."

A man of kindness to his beast is kind,
But brutal actions show a brutal mind:
Remember, He who made thee, made the brute,
Who gave thee speech and reason, form'd him mute;
He can't complain—but God's all-seeing eye
Beholds thy cruelty and hears his cry;
He was designed thy servant and thy drudge,
But know that his Creator is thy JUDGE!

AMERICAN REGISTER.

From the Buffalo Gazette, of August 1.

Major general Brown, accompanied by his aids-de-camp, colonel Jones and major Frasier, arrived at this village on Tuesday last. The general received national salutes at Black Rock and Buffalo.

General Brown, visited the battle ground at Bridgewater on the anniversary of that action.

Arrived in this village, brevet brigadier general James Miller, colonel of the new 5th. The general is on his way to Detroit, which post he will command.

The 12th regiment marched yesterday for Pittsburgh; its ultimate destination is St. Louis. The 10th follows to-day. This place will in a short time, cease to be a military station.

State Road.—The zeal exhibited by many of the citizens of Buffalo, in the improvement of the road from the site of the Court House to the Cayuga Creek settlement, is really laudable.—It is the commencement of the great state road, which has been surveyed in a direct line, from Buffalo to Genesee river.—*ibid.*

The U. S. frigate Java, Capt. Perry, the hero of Lake Erie, has sailed for the Mediterranean, as also the Independence, 74, Com. Bainbridge.

Fort Malden was delivered up to the English, on the 1st of July, and on the 5th the American troops left Detroit for Mackinaw.

War between the islands of Guadaloupe and Martinico, has been declared by Gov. Linois of Guadaloupe, by proclamation of the 8th of July last.

William Wirt, Esq. of Richmond, Virginia, is preparing for the press, a *life of the late Patrick Henry*, the great orator of Virginia.

A **NEW COLLEGE**, is about to be established at Meadville, Pennsylvania, of which the Rev. Timothy Alden, late of New-York, is chosen President.

LANCASTRIAN SCHOOL.

Extract of a letter from Doctor Daniel Drake, dated Cincinnati, May 2, 1815.

"Our Lancastrian Seminary was opened two weeks ago. We expected about 200 scholars the first quarter; but, before the expiration of one week, the number exceeded *four hundred*—when, the room being filled, no more were admitted. More than fifty children have, I suppose, been rejected."

NOTE.—Dr. Drake is one of the few who love knowledge for its own sake. He is now about publishing a volume, entitled *Picture of Cincinnati*, which, it is believed, will contain much more valuable geological, botanical, &c. information than has hitherto been given to the public relative to the interesting western country, which is even now in many respects a *Terra incognita*.—*Nat. Intell.*

From the Erie (Pa.) Constel., of June 7, 1815.

A channel has been formed by the rise of the Lake across the upper end of the Peninsula. There is little doubt but in a short time it will be of sufficient depth to admit of large vessels passing through.

There have been various causes assigned for the extraordinary rise of the lake; none of them satisfactory. Without venturing to give an opinion, we will state a few facts that may be relied on, and may assist others in their researches. The lake every year rises from about the middle of April until the middle of July, with some variation, and falls in autumn. From 1795 until 1801, it remained about *statu quo*, excepting the annual rise and fall just mentioned. From 1801 to 1811, it fell about a foot; it was then lower than it had ever been known, by the oldest settlers. Since then it has risen about four feet. There are no visible marks of its ever having been higher than at present.

Newburgh, (N. Y.) July 18.

Captain W. Halstead, of the sloop David Porter, sailed from this village on Thursday last. Immediately on his arrival at New-York, he discovered that one of his female passengers had gone ashore and left on board a fine boy 18 months old. No satisfactory information could be obtained relative to its mother, and the child was christened "*David Porter, jun.*"

TRIBUTE TO VALOR AND WORTH.

Albany, Aug. 1815. Several of the inhabitants of this city, have lately presented to Maj. Gen. Peter B. Porter, a handsome and valuable *service of plate*, as a testimonial of their sense of his meritorious services in the late war. Gen. Porter was an active officer in the militia of this state, on the Niagara frontier, and few men have better merited the esteem of their countrymen. Gen. Porter is now Secretary of the state of New-York.

The *PLATE* consists of two large *pitchers*, and twelve *tumblers*, with the following inscription on each:

"Presented by a number of citizens of Albany, to Maj. General Porter. A tribute of gratitude for his gallantry and services, as a citizen soldier in the late war with Great Britain. July 4, 1815."

Mr. Crawford, late minister of the United States in Europe, has accepted the office of Secretary at War, and has entered upon its duties.

The religious society of people called Shakers, in this vicinity, have lately given 400 dollars to the sufferers by the great fire at Petersburg, Va.

Cincinnati, July 15, 1815.

Arrived on Thursday, the 6th inst. at this port, the elegant barge *Cincinnati*, captain Jonathan Horton, from New-Orleans—passage 87 days. Cargo—sugars, molasses, rum, lignumvitæ, spanish hides, &c. to Jacob Baymiller.

The Steam-Boat Enterprize. This is the first Steam-Boat that has ever ascended the Ohio. She arrived at Louisville on the 1st inst. sailed thence on the 10th and came to at this port on the evening of the 13th, having made her passage from New-Orleans, a distance of 1800 miles, in 28 running days; (by the aid of her machinery alone, which acts on a single wheel placed in the stern) against the rapid currents of the Mississippi and the Ohio. This is one of the most important facts in the history of this country, and will serve as data of its future greatness. A range of Steam-Boats from Pittsburgh to New-Orleans—commencing, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati; Cincinnati and Louisville: Louisville and Smithland at the mouth of Cumberland, or some eligible place on the Mississippi below the mouth of Ohio, thence to Natchez, and from Natchez to New-Orleans—will render the transportation

of men and merchandise as easy, as cheap and expeditious on these waters, as it is by means of sea vessels on the ocean, and certainly far safer! And we are happy to congratulate our readers on the prospect that is presented of such an establishment. Two Steam-Boats, considerably larger than the *Enterprise*, could yet not too large for the purpose, are already built at Pittsburg, and will no doubt commence running in autumn. Others will follow; the success of the *Enterprise* must give a spring to this business, that will in a very few years carry it into complete and successful operation.

The *Enterprise* is a small vessel, carrying only 35 tons of cargo, explosive of her machinery.

She has however, very good accommodations for between 30 and 40 passengers—the ladies' apartment separate from the gentlemen's. The price of passage from New-Orleans to Cincinnati, is 130 dollars, and hence to Pittsburg 30 dollars.

The *Enterprise* brought an assorted cargo of cotton, sugar, lead, &c. She sailed for Pittsburg on the morning of the 17th, and was expected to arrive there, in 8 or 10 days; but we learn from Marietta that some part of the engine got deranged which prevented its operation, and it was not until the 25th that she arrived at that place. She started from Marietta on the morning of the 26th, but we have not yet heard of her arrival at Pittsburg.

Since the arrival of the Steam-Boat, several barges have also arrived here from New-Orleans, in passages of 130 and 142 days.

We have recorded these facts on the same page, in order to call the attention of the public to the superior merits of the Steam-Boat navigation, to mark particularly the period when this navigation may be said to have commenced; and to excite if possible, an ardent desire to promote its extension.

1816.

Cincinnati Gazette.

AGRICULTURAL.

The Farmer's Club, of Dutchess and Columbia Counties, offer the following premiums to be awarded and paid at their meeting on the 18th of October next, at the house of Mrs. Loop, in the town of Redhook.

For the best fattened ox exhibited to the society, not less than five, nor more than eight years old, owned by the claimant on the 1st of July, *twenty-five dollars*.

For the best pig, sow or boar, not more than eight months old, and raised by the claimant, *twenty dollars*.

For the best native full bred merino ram and ewe, which shall be exhibited to the society and raised by the claimant, *fifteen dollars*.

The Club will purchase the best cheese which shall be presented, weighing not less than 25 lbs. nor more than 35 lbs. made within the counties of Dutchess or Columbia, and will pay for the same *fifty cents* per lb.

The Club will also purchase the best fattened sheep killed and dressed, not more than five, nor less than three years old, raised and fattened by the claimant, (who is also to furnish a description of his mode of feeding) and will pay for the same *twenty-five cents* pr. lb.

All premiums offered by the Farmer's Club, are to be adjudged under the following regulations:—

Unless there are two or more competitors, only one half the premium to be paid. Persons not members are to pay one eighth of the amount of the premium for which they may wish to become competitors. The association reserves the right to judge whether the subjects offered are such as to merit a premium.

The articles exhibited to be the bona fide property of the person offering them.

By order, and in behalf of the Society,

EDWARD P. LIVINGSTON, *President*.

July 8, 1815.

N. B. A sectional meeting of the members of the Farmer's Club residing in Columbia county, is to be held at Kinderhook, at the house of Nathan

Deyo, on the first Monday of October next. The members residing in Dutchess county, are requested to meet on the same day, at Jacques' Hotel, at Rhinebeck Flats.

New-York, Saturday Evening, August 12, 1815.

The British rance *Aebar*, and a brig of war, are cruising off Sandy Hook. They yesterday captured and ordered for Halifax, the French brig *Triade*, Capt. Becker, from Nantz, and the brig *Hannah* from Guadaloupe, both for New-York. Four passengers of the *Hannah* were put on board the brig *Recompense*.

Custom-House Receipts.—The duties on imported Goods, entered at the Custom-House in New-York, in the months of April, May and June, amount to nearly Four Millions of Dollars.

Nashville, (Tenn.) August 1.

On Monday last, an express reached the head-quarters of General Jackson at this place, from Governor Clark, Governor Edwards, and the Commissioners appointed to negotiate a treaty with the North Western Indians. The communications received, render it almost certain, that a war with those Indians is inevitable.

Baltimore, August 18.

The U. S. Store ship *John Adams*, E. Trenchard, Esq. M. C. sailed from this port yesterday, to join the squadron in the Mediterranean. Wm. B. Barney, Esq. American Consul at Trieste, went passenger.

Quebec, August 10.

On Monday night last the frost was so severe in the vicinity of this city as to destroy the leaves of the cucumber plants, pumpkins, beans and other tender vegetables. Early on Tuesday morning ice was found in many places. The frost extended both to lands in high and low situations. It is feared that much injury has been done to the wheat in this district, which had a promising appearance. A snow storm the 20th May, the trees not in leaf on the 4th June; and so severe a frost on the 7th August, are novel features, even in the climate of Canada.

NEWS FROM OUR SQUADRON.

By the arrival of the brig *Shakespeare*, captain Rand, which arrived last evening, in 40 days from Lisbon, we have received a file of Lisbon papers, from which the following interesting translation is made, relative to the operations of the American squadron in the Mediterranean.

We learn verbally, that on the 21st of June, an Algerine frigate was towed into the harbor of Carthage by an American frigate, and there given to the care of an American schooner. She was captured on the 16th, is a new vessel of 44 guns—the admiral on board was killed, as were many men, and the ship totally dismantled. A brigantine was driven on shore, and taken possession of by the Americans—the crew were sent to Carthage. A schooner has also been taken by the Americans; and an Algerine frigate escaped into Alicant. The American squadron, was left in chase of the remainder of the Algerines. Carthage was the rendezvous, and lodgings were preparing for commodore Decatur.

The Americans had on board 400 Algerine prisoners, with the declared intention of beheading them in sight of Algiers, should the report be true that the crew of an American vessel had been put to the sword in Algiers.

N. Y. Merc. Adv.

[TRANSLATION.]

Lisbon, July 4.

To-day a Greek ship has arrived from Smyrna, the capt. of which states that 14 days since, off Carthage, he saw the American and Algerine squadrons engaged; that he saw them disperse in all directions, that he saw the Americans take three ships, and that, although he had a good breeze, he heard firing until one o'clock in the morning. He knew of the arrival of the frigate at Carthage, as mentioned; he was on board of com. Decatur's ship before the action; and afterwards, off Malaga, he fell in with the Dutch squadron.

MR. BAYARD'S RECEPTION.

Wilmington, Del. Aug. 1.

Arrived in the Delaware, off this place last evening, the U. States' ship Neptune, 43 days from Plymouth, having on board Messrs. Bayard and Crawford.

The news of this arrival produced the most affecting spectacle. The last accounts from Europe, respecting the health of Mr. Bayard, had caused great anxiety, more especially in the minds of those who were acquainted with him as a private citizen. At the same moment were seen running to the wharves, the inhabitants of this Borough, and numbers from the vicinity, who had previously noticed the Neptune ascending the Delaware. The boat, that had gone to the Neptune, now arrived at the wharf. An awful silence ensued. As soon as it was known that Mr. Bayard was on board the Neptune, though very ill, the assemblage burst into loud huzzas, in consequence of the return of that distinguished statesman and esteemed fellow-citizen.

In the evening he was brought from the Neptune to his house, having been confined to his bed for 70 days.

JAMES A. BAYARD, is no more! He died on the evening of the 7th, in consequence of the bursting of the abscess in his breast; having, from the moment of his arrival, with calm resignation expected his fate. Let us mourn over him; for he was an estimable man. Let us honor his memory; for he was a patriot statesman. His life was sacrificed in the service of his country.

FOREIGN EVENTS.

Since our last, the armies of Europe have again renewed the work of slaughter and devastation on a great scale, and already the greatest events have flowed from the contest. On the 15th of June, 1815, the French army under Bonaparte, passed the frontier and attacked the Prussian division of the allied army, posted on the Sambre, in the Netherlands. The battles that ensued, between this time and the 19th, detailed in the official Reports of the respective Commanders, were among the most bloody and desperate of modern times. The French were every where repulsed in the event, and the army, from what has followed, may be supposed literally overthrown. We have not room for the official details, and shall content ourselves with preserving the principal documents and papers connected with the subsequent events. No account of the French loss of lives has yet reached us, but the Emperor acknowledges a defeat. Some estimate of the immense destruction of human lives may be formed from the fact, that Lord Wellington, Generalissimo of the allied armies, in an official dispatch of June 29, says, "the amount of non-commissioned officers and soldiers, British and Hanoverian, killed, wounded and missing, is between 12 and 13000."

FRENCH HOUSE OF PEERS.

PERMANENT SESSION, JUNE 22, 1815.

ABDICATION OF BONAPARTE.

The Minister of the Interior demanded to speak in the name of the Emperor. He then read the declaration of the Emperor, to wit:

Declaration to the French People.

FRENCHMEN!

In commencing war to support the Independence of the Nation, I calculated upon the co-operation of all the efforts, and the wishes of all the national authorities. I had reason to hope for success; and I have braved all the denunciations of the powers against me. Circumstances are changed. I do

fer myself a sacrifice to the hatred of the enemies of France. May they be sincere in their declarations; and have no other designs than such as are directed against my person.

MY POLITICAL LIFE IS ENDED; and I proclaim my SON, under the title of Napoleon II. Emperor of the French.

The existing Minister will form provisionally a Council of Government. The affection which I bear to my Son, induces me to invite the Chambers without delay to organize a Regency, by law. Unite yourselves for the public safety, and preserve the independence of the Nation.

Done at the Palace of Elgium, 22d June, 1815.

(Signed)

NAPOLEON.

Authenticated by Count BORLAI.

The message was referred to a committee of seven. The minister of the interior, in the name of the minister of war, gave a statement which went to assert that the frontier of the north, &c. was yet sufficiently strong, Blücher beat, &c. &c. Marshal Ney protested with great energy against this statement; he declared that the allies would be in Paris in six or seven days; and recommended that, to preserve the public safety, propositions be made to the allied powers. Various propositions were made relating to the exigency of the times. Prince Lucien made a proposition to proclaim Napoleon II. Emperor of France; a lively debate followed, but no question taken.

In the Chamber of Representatives, June 21, General La Fayette took an active part in the discussions; and offered several resolutions for the safety of the country, and rallying the nation around the tri-coloured banner of 1789. On the 22d June, the joint committee on the message of the late emperor, reported, 16 to 5, as follows:

1. There shall be nominated by the Chambers, a deputation, charged to negotiate with the powers a treaty of peace, by which the integrity of France, and the independence of the nation shall be guaranteed.

2. But it is expedient to support this application by the prompt development of all the national force; and the ministers will shortly make a communication on this subject.

A violent debate ensued on this motion; in which several members, who expressed their fears of the weakness of the nation, were hooted; and others exclaimed, "It is not true. We have strength—we have means—and we will die if necessary. We swear it."

Various motions, for accepting, conditionally, the abdication of the Emperor: sending a deputation to the allied powers to treat of peace in the name of the French nation; for forming the basis of a new constitution, &c. &c. were made, and passed by. It was agreed that the deputies to be sent to the allied powers should be chosen by the provisional government.

The Peers proceeded to the choice of two members on its part, to form the provisional government. The Duke of Vicence, and le Baron Quinet, were chosen on the part of the Peers. The Duke de Otranto, Count Carnot, and Gen. Grenier were chosen by the Representatives. The provisional Gov. immediately organised themselves; and chose the Duke of Otranto President.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Paris, June 23.

"Napoleon the second, has become Emperor of the French by the fact of the abdication of Napoleon the first, and by virtue of the constitution of the empire.

"This decision shall be transmitted to the chamber of peers by a message."

The resolution was unanimously seconded, and put to vote. The whole assembly rose; and the president declared the proposition adopted. At this word, the cry of: *Vive l'Empereur*, burst forth in the assembly and in the tribune—and the cry was prolonged amid the most lively applause.

[The busts of poets the same evening occurred in the above resolution. The title of the vote is not given.]

PROCLAMATION OF THE COMMISSION OF GOVERNMENT TO THE FRENCH

Paris, June 24.

Frenchmen—Within a few days glorious successes and a frightful reverse, have agitated your destinies upon

A great sacrifice has appeared necessary to your peace and that of the world. Napoleon has abdicated the imperial power. His abdication has ended his political life. His son is proclaimed.

Your new constitution, which yet had only good principles, is about to receive all its developments and even its principles are to be refined and extended. There no longer exist authorities jealous of each other. The field is free to the enlightened patriotism of your representatives, and the poets feel; think and vote as your promises.

After 25 years of political tempests, behold this moment when all that has been conceived by the gods and the greatest inspired and social institution, may be perfected. In your midst are great and good spirits, and on whatever side they raise their voices they shall be listened to. Ignorantiares are gone to treat in the name of the nation and to negotiate with the powers of Europe that peace which they have promised upon a condition which is this day fulfilled. The whole world is as attentive as ourselves for the answer. Their reply will make known whether justice and promises have yielded some meaning upon the earth. Let us be united. Rally round each other in circumstances so serious. Let civil disorders be appeased—let dissensions disappear in this moment when the great interests of nations are about to be discussed.

Be united from the north of France to the Pyrenees, from La Vendée to Marseilles. Whatever may have been his party, whatever may be his political opinions, what matter on the soil of France would not range himself under the national flag to defend the independence of the country?

They may destroy a part of our armies: but the experience of all ages, and of all people, proves that they cannot destroy, they cannot subdue, an intrepid nation which fights for justice and liberty.

The Emperor has offered himself a sacrifice by abdicating. The members of the government have devoted themselves in accepting from your representatives the reins of state.

(Signed) **Duke of OTRANTO.**

FRENCH LEGISLATURE.

House of Representatives—June 29, 1815.

Count Lanjuinais presiding, presented the following message, from the provisional government, and the accompanying document.

Mr. President.—The provisional government has not forgotten for an instant that Napoleon by his abdication, has placed himself under the safeguard of French honor. Their first care was to demand of the enemy-generals, safe conducts for the protection of his person.

On the 25th of June, Napoleon demanded that two frigates should be put at his disposition. The government immediately ordered the ministry of the marine to arm those two frigates. Lieutenant-general Beker was ordered to provide for the protection of the person of Napoleon during his route, and all necessary orders were given for securing the preparation of relays of horses.

Accept, Mr. President the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) **Duke of OTRANTO,**

Paris, June 29.

Copy of a letter to Count Bignon.

Head Quarters, June 28.

Count—I had the honor to receive the letter of the 28th. I have already

written to the Commissioners named to treat of peace with the allied powers, upon their proposition for a suspension of hostilities; an answer which your excellency must have seen, and I have nothing more to add to it.

As regards a passport and safe conduct for (Napoleon Bonaparte), to proceed to the United States of America, I must inform your excellency that I have no authority from my government to give any reply whatever to such a demand.

I have the honor to be with the most distinguished consideration your excellency's most obedient servant,

(Signed) **W. W. WELLINGTON**

Paris, July 1.
Letter from the Minister of War to the Duke of Wellington.

Monsieur le Duc, Valenciennes, June 30.

My Lord—Your hostile movements continue, although according to the declaration of the allied sovereigns, the causes of the war no longer exist; since the Emperor Napoleon has abdicated his power.

At the moment when blood is again to be shed, I have received from the marshal Albufera a telegraphic despatch, of which I send you a copy. My Lord—I guarantee upon my honor this armistice; all the reasons which you could have to continue hostilities are at an end, since you can have no other instructions from your government than those which the Austrian generals had from theirs.

I make of your lordship's second demand for a cessation of hostilities immediately and to conclude an armistice—to wait the decision of the Empress. I cannot believe, my lord, that my demand will be without effect; you will make upon yourself a great responsibility in the eyes of your noble coadjutors.

No other motive than the wish to prevent the effusion of blood and the interest of my country, has dictated this letter.

If I appear on the field of battle, I shall carry thither the conviction of contending for the noblest of causes, the defence and independence of my country, and that whatever may be the result, I shall merit your esteem. Accept, I pray you, my Lord, &c. &c.

A similar letter has been written to marshal Blücher.

ECKMÜHL

Paris, July 30.

It is supposed that the frigates intended to transport Napoleon Bonaparte to the U. States are now waiting at Rochefort. There are to accompany him, Generals Bertrand, Savary, Lallemand, Labadoye, and many other officers, and eight or ten domestics.

ADDRESS TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE.

The Boston Daily Advertiser gives the following extracts from an appeal made by the Chamber of Representatives to the people, unanimously adopted on the 1st of July:

Frenchmen—Foreign powers have proclaimed in the face of Europe, that they took up arms only against Napoleon, that they would respect our independence and the right which every nation has to choose its government, in conformity to its manners and its interests.

"Napoleon is no longer at the head of the state; he has himself renounced the throne; his abdication has been accepted by your representatives. He has departed from us; his son is called to the empire by the constitutions of the state. The allied sovereigns know it. The war ought therefore to be at an end, if the promises of kings are of any validity.

"Meantime, plenipotentiaries have been sent to the allied powers to treat of peace, and their generals have refused a suspension of arms. Their troops have hastened their march, availing themselves of a moment of alarm and hesitation; they are at the gates of the capital, without making known to us why the war continues.

"Now the house of representatives conceive it to belong to its duty and its dignity, to declare that it will never acknowledge as the lawful head of the state, him who, on mounting the throne, will refuse to acknowledge the rights of the nation, and to consecrate them by a solemn engagement. This constitutional charter is drawn up, and if force of arms shall momentarily impose upon us a master—if the destinies of a great nation are to be abandoned to the caprice and arbitrary will of a small number of privileged persons; then, yielding to the compulsion, the national representatives will assert in the face of the whole world, the rights of the oppressed French nation.

"It will appeal to the energy of the present and future generations, again to vindicate at once the national independence, and the rights of civil liberty.

"It appeals, from this day, to the justice and the reason of every civilized people."

London, July 3.

Lord Castlereagh and Suite left town on Friday last, (June 30) on his mission to the Continent. It is supposed that Prince Metternich and Baron Hardenberg will meet Lord C. at Brussels.

RETURN OF LOUIS XVIII. TO PARIS.

London, Downing-Street, July 11.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was this day received from field-marshal the duke of Wellington, K. G. addressed to earl Bathurst.

Paris, July 8.

My Lord—In consequence of the convention with the enemy, of which I transmitted your lordship the copy in my dispatch of the 4th, the troops under my command and that of field-marshal prince Blucher, occupied the barriers of Paris on the 6th, and entered the city yesterday; which has ever since been perfectly quiet. The king of France entered Paris this day.

I have the honor to be, &c.

WELLINGTON.

Paris, July 7.

The Commission has made known to the King through the organ of its President, that it has just dissolved itself.

The Peers and the Representatives, imposed by the late government, have received on this subject a notification.

The Chambers are dissolved.

The King will enter Paris to-morrow about 2 in the afternoon. His majesty will alight at the Thuilleries.

ORDINANCE OF THE KING.

Louis by the grace of God, king of France and Navarre, to all those to whom these presents shall come, health—

Considering the necessity of restoring to their functions the individuals who have been removed by violence since the 20th of March last, we have ordered and do order as follows:

Art. 1. The functionaries of the administrative and judicial order, the commanders and officers of the national guard, who were in active service on the first of March last, shall resume their functions forthwith:

2. The ministers are charged each in what concerns him, with the execution of the present ordinance.

Given at St. Denis, 7th July, 1815, and the 21st of our reign.

(Signed)

LOUIS.

By the king,

Prince de TALLEYRAND.

Another decree restores the command of the national guard of Paris to lieut. gen. count Dessolles, under the orders of Monsieur.

Paris, July 8.

Lord Castlereagh is arrived at the duke of Wellington's head-quarters. He immediately waited on the king of France.

We are informed that the king has appointed Prince Talleyrand, minister of foreign affairs, and president of the council of ministers; the Duke of Otranto, minister of the interior; the Duke of Richelieu, minister of the marine; the Duke of Felice, minister of war; Baron Louis, provisional minister of the finances; Count Lally Tollend, minister of the household; M. Laine, vice-chancellor and keeper of the seals; M. D'Ambray, honorary chancellor; M. —, minister of police.

The allied troops have agreed to occupy Paris thus—the English, the right of the Seine, and the Prussians the left. Lodgings have accordingly been assigned by the mayors to the principal officers of each army.

The Duke of Otranto dined yesterday with the Duke of Wellington.

They write from Rochefort, on the 2nd of July—“Two frigates, having on board passengers of a most important description, have just quitted the harbor, and are now in the roadstead. An English ship of war is in the passage.”

We are assured that Valenciennes has surrendered to the allied armies.

Marshal Ney has left Paris. It is said he has gone to the United States of America.

Marshal Augerau, who was exiled by Bonaparte and who never would approach him since, has returned to Paris.

Marshal Soult, has gone to his estate at St. Amand.

The two Chambers were shut up at six o'clock, by order of gen. Dessolles.

The emperors of Russia and Austria, and the king of Prussia, will arrive in Paris this evening.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We are obliged to ‘A COLUMBIA SUBSCRIBER’ for his attention, and his suggestions of improvement. They shall be duly attended to. *PRESERVE*, is under consideration. *CHERRIES*, and *SUNNY*, came too late for this No.—*LAURA*, rhymes very correctly, but her poetry—is not poetry. With her permission, we would prefer the sentiments in plain, sober prose; and they would then be highly acceptable to our Readers. The practice so well described by *JUNIAS*, merits all his severity of manner, and ought to be brought before the public. It ought, indeed, to have occupied the attention of the Grand Jury, long before now. We will consider in what manner to dispose of his favor—for although we do not shrink from the task he proposes, yet we doubt whether the subject would be interesting to our Readers in general. *MECHANICS*, ought to have been, at least, ten days earlier. It is necessary to make up the most of the Copy for each No., by the tenth of the Month, and we wish our Correspondents to bear this in mind. If sent in time, the *Biography of Baron S.*, will be commenced in our next Number. The Journal mentioned by *CANADENSIS*, would be very acceptable, with, or without a translation. We will preserve the facts sent by *SAPELLO*, if we have leave to abridge his very interesting Memoir. The samples are in good order. A *Century Discourse*, from Hamilton, Mass., and sundry others, are received with gratitude. The Memoir of *MATHEMATICS*, on the equation of time, would be interesting to but few of our Readers. It is under consideration, however, and while we solicit his acquiescence in our decision, we assure him that all his favors shall receive the most distinguished attention. *AGRICOLA*, is illegible, by being defaced in the mail. Will he oblige us by renewing, at least, that part on making cyder wine, and the preparation of good cyder for keeping? We know the value of his directions on these subjects, and are very anxious to offer them to our Readers. The R—, promised by D. W., will be expected in good time.—Several articles prepared for this Number, are unavoidably omitted.

The writer of the *Essay on Coins*, finds it out of his power to continue it. The difficulty of obtaining books of reference, has occasioned this failure. His plan is before the public, and he invites the antiquary to assist in its completion.

O.

THE
AMERICAN MAGAZINE,
A MONTHLY MISCELLANY,

CONDUCTED BY

HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD, A. M.

Author of a Geography of the United States, a Gazetteer of the State of New-York, &c. &c. &c.
Member of the New-York Historical Society, and one of the Counsellors of the Society for the
Promotion of Useful Arts:—a Member of the American Antiquarian Society, and of the
Berkeley Agricultural Society, Massachusetts.

No. 4.

SEPTEMBER, 1815.

VOL. B.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

The following Letter, which was written at the request of a friend, was not designed for publication. The perusal of it, however, has afforded me so much instruction and satisfaction, that I have procured a copy, which I offer for your Miscellany. This I do without the consent of the writer, or the person to whom it was addressed, who has now gone to Europe, but by the consent of a friend of his.

C.

New-York, Sept. 10, 1815.

DEAR SIR,

I am duly favored with your Letter of a late date, proposing to learn my "opinion about the best practicable mode of improving the navigation of Hudson River, between Baltimore and Waterford," and agreeable to request, make haste to reply to it. On this subject, my mind was already made up, and I was prepared to attach to the enquiry, all the importance that it merits. Want of time, however, will prevent my doing ample justice to my own views, in this Letter.

The enquiry, what is the best method to be adopted for improving the navigation of this River, where it is now obstructed by numerous islands, sand-bars, ripples, and shoals, occasioning many divisions of its current, and various and irregular channels, deserves careful examination. Much money has been expended already, and far less advantage derived from it than seemed to have been expected: still the navigation has been improved.

One general principle may be admitted, in reply to an enquiry of this nature: that the water should be confined to one principal channel, as far as practicable, and in such way as to give all possible unity of effect to its currents. If all the water could be confined to one principal channel, and the course of that direct, the obstructions that now impede sloop navigation, would soon be removed by the force of the water: and this operation, which would constantly be deepening the channel, would continually invite the impulse of the tides to extend their action further up the stream. But, in such a river, it is neither practicable to confine all the water to one channel, nor to

give to that a direct course. All that can be done, therefore, is to come as near to doing this as may be practicable under all the circumstances of the case. Confining the action of the greatest possible quantity of the water to one channel, would have an increased influence in removing the obstacles to an uniform flow of its current, and by increasing the momentum of its force and power, would have the same effect as if by any other means we increased the quantity of the water. If by dams to connect the islands and sand-bars, and to throw the water into one principal channel, we keep up the continuity of impulse, the river will soon shape its channel to its own liking. Suppose this done, and by a wise discretion of choice, regarding the natural course of impulse, and the nature of the ground that forms the bottom of the river: selecting for the best direction, and that ground most likely to yield to the force of the current in deepening its channel—the unity of direction and of impulse, would soon remove the lesser obstacles, and in time they must all yield. Thus prepared, were it practicable to double the quantity of water, we more than quadruple its power in removing whatever may obstruct its course: and the effect is nearly the same, if by narrowing the channel we double the depth of the water that flows through it in a given time. But besides this, there is another circumstance attending the increased depth of the water, which is of high importance in a consideration of this subject, in relation to the object of the present enquiry. The object is to improve the navigation of a noble stream, near and above the head of its tides. Now the influence of the tides do not merely extend, in their ascending impulse from the sea, to the level which they have left in the parent ocean, but mount far above it. And the extension of this impulse depends on the depth of the water into which it flows, or in which it ends in swells, without reversing the current, and also on the force of the descending current which it has to overcome. These impulses, acting alternately in opposite directions, extend their influence in proportion to their relative strength: and on this principle, it is perfectly evident that the deeper the water, the higher the swell of the tides will extend. These are facts well known, which have resulted alike from reason and experience. In this country, so plentifully supplied with numerous navigable streams, and yet so young in experience, they do not appear to have excited the notice to which they are entitled. Still as the American population increases, and with it the extraordinary enterprize which characterises the American people, we find it desirable to extend the navigation of our rivers above the reach of the present tides, as well as to improve their navigation throughout. And in this state of our country and our wants, it is well to look to every source of intelligence. The experience of England, would aid us much in this enquiry. The Thames, which was once only deemed navigable to London, 60 miles from the sea, has now a navigation for vessels of 30 tons, that extends to Lechlade, a distance of 138 miles above London. The naviga-

tion of this part, however, so added by art, is not without much expense, and at certain seasons of unusual drouth, is only effected by the use of Locks. In a common state of the water, no locks are needed, and none are then used, but at very low water, the charge for lockage, on a boat of 90 tons, from London to Lechlade, is 13*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* The first Lock, however, is 51½ miles above London Bridge, and 41½ above the head of the tide, which is at Richmond, 70 miles from the sea. And the means that have been used in that river to extend the navigation, or rather to improve it, for the Locks are some of them expensive works, are very simple and attended with little expense. A careful examination of these would afford much instruction towards improving the navigation of our own rivers.

But I am, perhaps, detaining you too long with these observations, and come to the main proposition on which I am disposed to place great reliance. It is well known that the Mohawk unites its waters with those of the Hudson, by four channels, separated from each other, in the extreme points, by a distance of about 4 miles. The upper channel, or sprout as it is called here, enters the Hudson nearly at right angles, at Waterford Point; the middle one near 2 miles below, and the lower one opposite Troy. Below the Cahoos, the great falls of the Mohawk, the whole stream glides rapidly over a rock bottom for some distance before it divides into the above mentioned channels, the direction being toward Waterford. The same bottom continuing, a part of the stream inclines to the right, and ultimately finds a passage in that direction, dividing by some islands. It fortunately happens that where the waters so incline to the right, 'seeking division,' the rock at the bottom is very smooth, and the depth of the water inconsiderable. Were rolling dams erected here, to turn back the water, or rather to confine it to the main channel, the consequence would be that all would be thrown into the Hudson at Waterford. This would add at least one third part, perhaps one half, as near as I can judge, to the present quantity afforded at that place by the Mohawk, and still leave enough in the old channels for the supply of water works erected thereon. The Mohawk is but little inferior in volume to the Hudson; and were its waters thus thrown into it where they ought to be, the addition would swell a far more copious stream by the villages of Lansingburgh and Troy. A rolling dam is proposed, in order that it may turn, or confine the water when the stream is low, but when swelled by rains or the melting of ice, suffer a part to pass over, and thus escape injury by ice, always broken very fine by descending the Cahoos. If I am not deceived in my calculation, 10,000 dollars would pay every expense of such dams, and the interest of that sum would keep them forever in repair. Say 20,000 dollars appropriated to this object, the one half to be immediately expended, and the other half at interest; and 10,000 dollars to be laid out in confining the water to the best channel between Waterford and Troy. With these means, there can be no doubt that the channel would be deepened, cleared of many

of its obstructions and there is none in my mind that within 50 years the tide would extend its swell to Waterford, as much as it now does to Troy. Whatever may be the jealousies or the collisions of interest, that bias the views and feelings of men immediately interested in this question at the present day, the time is coming when the general interest will controul decision, and regard this extension of the navigation of the Hudson as an object of paramount importance. If, therefore, these reasonings are sound, it is the duty of the present age to improve the opportunity—and it will require no elaborate argument to convince you of the truth of this position.

I am sensible that, were the bottom of the Mohawk any thing but solid rock, where I propose to erect the dam or dams, other objections than can now be brought against that project, might claim much consideration—and as it is, I believe that throwing the additional quantity of water into the Hudson at Waterford, would cause to roll along with it a good deal of mud and gravel. It is the nature of a stream, however, both to make and to clear its own channel; and while this quantity would not be very great, I have no hesitation in believing that, with the increased power of the stream, the channel would not only be kept clear, but even deepened and worn where most subject to wear, and rendered more free by the action of this cause.

The foregoing observations are all that readily suggest themselves at this moment; and having so fully stated my views in relation to the means to be used above Albany, and as the same reasoning equally applies to the proposed improvement of the navigation below, I have nothing further to add on this subject. I may be permitted, however, to observe, that in the attempts which I have witnessed in this country to improve the navigation of rivers, it has commonly happened that too little regard has been paid to the will of the waters themselves, or to the invariable laws of nature. And this remark suggests so many facts for comment, so many cases for reflection, that I must either commence on another sheet, or desist from longer intrusion on my own time.

Before I close, however, I must make a few observations on another subject. Perhaps there is not, on this globe, a State or Government of any kind, whose geographical territory includes so many features of the most striking interest and importance, in relation to navigation and inland intercourse, as the State of New-York. I have not time to delineate even a skeleton of these features, which have so often excited my admiration—but who that shall examine our map, can fail to perceive the bounty of Divine Providence, in the distribution of our navigable waters! The Hudson, whose stream has the advantage of 2 tides,* 3 quarters of an hour different in time, has a commer-

* A most striking effect of which is, that uniting their influence in one combined effort as they flow through the bays of Tappan and Haverstraw, they produce higher tides above, than any where below these bays. So that at 60 miles above the city of New-York, the tides rise higher than any

nial site at its mouth not exceeded by any in the world—and this Hudson, which opens such an extent of inland navigation, has its line of direction continued by Lake Champlain, which empties N., into the St. Lawrence, and which, at no distant day must be united with the Hudson by a Canal, forming a line of navigation of vast importance to the adjacent countries. The Hudson carries its tides to Albany, and an easy navigation for the largest sloops and schooners; and if my reasoning is correct, may soon do so to Waterford.—Cast your eye, now, over the map; here is Lake Ontario, and at this point, where the Oswego river enters the Lake, is a pretty good harbour; and through that river a navigation that extends through many Lakes and Creeks further west, as also through the Oneida Lake, which is in the direction toward the nearest navigable point on the Hudson. With a string, one end of which is fixed at Oswego, I sweep for the Hudson, and the nearest point is exactly at the mouth of the Mohawk—and, wonderful to observe, it now lies along the course of that river so exactly, that one may imagine this stream had been formed precisely for the purpose of opening a navigation between these points! The small Lakes situated to the W., in the counties of Ontario, Seneca and Cayuga, by uniting their waters, send off a boatable stream to the eastward, till meeting with the outlet of Oneida Lake, they turn towards Lake Ontario, in a fine navigable stream. True it is that these streams do not afford an uninterrupted navigation, throughout—but they may be made to do so, and with very little labor, compared with the magnitude of the object. The subject is very striking, and well merits examination.

DELTA.

where around that city, or on the sea shore outside of Long Island. The tide that enters the Hudson from the East river, precedes that coming direct from the sea, by Sandy Hook and the Narrows, about three quarters of an hour—subject, however, to considerable variation, by the influence of the prevailing winds. Here then, at a distance of about 80 miles from the sea, is a tide greater than on the sea shore, which boldly faces the waters of the Hudson, reverses its current, and extends its influence yet 100 miles further up that noble river. Were the tide from the East river longer delayed in its passage of the sound, so as just to meet the next succeeding swell, coming from Sandy Hook, this effect could not be produced, and the tide could not mount the Hudson so far by many miles.

The following long Letter is presented to our Readers as well to gratify a good old Man, as to preserve some very just observations, and do justice to his merits and virtues. The subject, we are well aware, will not appear interesting to all our Readers, and there may be some who will think the publication altogether useless. From the great length of the original Letter, we have been compelled to omit some sentences, and this has occasioned some slight alterations in the reading—but we have no where changed the sentiments. On the whole, we think the Letter so creditable to the heart and head of this Soldier-Schoolmaster, and the facts so well worth preserving, that we feel a

pleasure in complying with his request, fully persuaded that his motives deserve commendation. He will perceive that we have omitted some of the geographical observations, which appear to have been made with good judgment, the result of much observation, and for this we ask his indulgence. They are laid aside, however, and shall be duly incorporated in a proper place, at no distant period.

EDITH.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

Bern, in the County of Albany, Sept. 10, 1815.

SIR,

If any apology is necessary for the request I am about to make, I offer to you, the reasons that induce the making it; and should you think proper to gratify me, these reasons may either accompany the compliance, or be suppressed, at your pleasure. An old man, close verging on the grave, conscious that but a very few years, at most, must gather me to my Fathers, and that with me must perish most of the remembrances of what the early inhabitants of this town have suffered, I ask to be gratified by the publication of the following Narrative and Remarks in your Magazine. When some of the oldest inhabitants were occupied in furnishing the history of the early settlements in this Town, for your Gazetteer, I gave them all the particulars of this Narrative, and hoped to see them preserved in that Work. Perhaps, in your opinion, the plan of that Book, did not admit of such details; or perhaps you considered the facts of little public importance, and only selected a small portion of them as entitled to a place. This may have been necessary and proper according to your views—but I should have been better pleased, if you had incorporated in that Book more of the history of the settlements, and the difficulties and hardships which the early settlers had to contend with. In a few years, even the traditions of these occurrences will be lost for ever, and the succeeding generations forget all the hardships and sufferings of their progenitors. Indeed, did I not see a disposition in too many of our young people, already, to regard my history of these things as an old man's fables, I should hardly have troubled you with this long Letter. I have known this country for more than half a century; and within an extent that now contains 20,000 inhabitants, principally farmers, with only such mechanics as are convenient for the business of the inhabitants, I had known it many long years before the whole population exceeded 100. I have often travelled 12, and even 15 miles, to the nearest mill, and that through a wilderness, often on foot, without seeing a single habitation. Now—to be sure, we have good roads, good farms, good neighbors, and good society, with Churches, Schools, and a great deal of wealth and happiness. Our farms, and farm-houses, are such as none but the most wealthy among the laboring classes of my native country enjoy. We have our teams of horses, and in 2 or 3 hours we can ride loads of our spare produce to Albany, always a good market, or Schenectady, and see some thousands of people, all busy and

prosperous and happy. With these things, I am content; but I am not willing to see a new race of people so soon forget that it was not always so with us. In my youth, I was dragged from the fields of my nativity, sold as a mercenary in arms, and wandered over many countries as a hired butcher of other hirelings, equally wretched, perhaps, with myself, enduring an extreme of misery which I cannot describe. During the latter part of this servitude, of all others the most painful to a reflecting mind, my misery was heightened by religious impressions. At length I found means to escape from the slavery of arms, and here, Sir, I first learnt to feel that I was free indeed, though I was not born in bondage. Concealment was for a long time necessary, and the liberty which I soon learnt to enjoy, still found me a needy adventurer in a strange land, with no other distinction than that of 'the poor Soldier.' But in those days, men were happily less inquisitive and unkind toward strangers, than they have since been, and I soon found that by honesty and industry, I could acquire a living.—When little, or no learning at all existed among us, there was no reproach in a want of literature, and I had, at least, as much as my neighbors. In time, I began to be esteemed as an honest man, worthy to be entrusted with the instruction of the children of my neighbors. This was no small step in the advancement of my fortune, and I yet love to pronounce my acquired title of Schoolmaster, long since disused.

But, I am probably tiring your patience with my long tale, and will be as brief as possible. Suffice it to say, that, becoming a kind of fixture in this soil, I have improved with the country around me, rising with prosperity, as that has risen. In a few days, at most, I must leave my farm;—and I am consoled alike with the retrospect of life, and with the prospect of futurity. I have labored, indeed, for what I have procured, but I have enjoyed a blessing upon all my labors. None but titled-men, and what are exclusively called gentlemen, in my native country, enjoy such possessions, and such conveniences, as I shall soon leave to my heirs—the honest earnings of a poor Soldier, sold into slavery-in-arms, by his Prince, whom he never saw, before he had learnt to choose between good and evil. And although my bondage has proved to me a blessing; I must ever grieve for the many who perished miserably in *theirs*.

But—I have been long speaking of myself, and come now to a principal object of my solicitude. When by my labor I began to lay the foundation of my present independence, foreign cloths were hardly known amongst the laboring poor in the country, and we had not yet acquired the means or the knowledge to raise the materials and spin and weave cloths for our own wear. I was obliged, therefore, to dress the skins of the deer, and from these alone to form all my outside clothing: my coat, my trousers, and my shoes. This I did for many years, and was thankful for the comfort these garments afforded me. And although I have long seen that my family are striving to hide this circumstance, as if it were connected with something of reproach, I

wish to place it on public record. There are a few men yet living in the city of Albany, who knew my leather suit, by an acquaintance of years, at a time when Albany was but a poor little village, and Bern had only 8 or 10 inhabitants. The times are now changed indeed, with the circumstances of our affairs—but ought any body to be ashamed that they are changed for the better? Before I die, let me declare my thankfulness—for if there be any reprehension in this matter, it is for the sin of ingratitude. We had once no roads, or houses or lands;—no horses or oxen, sheep or cows—we have now abundance of all. I have brought meal on my shoulders, *clad in my suit of leather*, a distance of 8 and even 12 miles, to make bread for those who now seem ashamed to be seen riding into Albany in a waggon! Ashamed!—a good man should only be ashamed of sin—my horses and waggon are good enough for me, and far better become me, my circumstances and feelings, than any more costly, but less useful conveyance. And now Sir, if you publish this, you will gratify one old man, at least, who will also have the satisfaction to reflect that he has done, and finished his duty in this world, as becomes him, and his faith as a Christian. Warned by the events of his own life, he knows something of the value of admonition and experience—and he hopes that in this he is discharging a duty to his posterity and his Maker.

The City of Albany, has become a great place of business; and the inhabitants abound in wealth. It was not always so, and the old are in duty bound to make the young remember this. The country around it, in every direction, is now filled with people,—and farms and cattle abound. But let it not be forgotten that in 1815, the poor Soldier, who had witnessed such surprising changes here, and who tells this long tale of what he has seen and known and suffered and enjoyed, was yet living. Nor let his Narrative be forgotten—it is a tale of humble life, but it records the commencement and progress, for a long time very slow, of the settlement of a dreary wilderness, now blest with many habitations and much happiness. In a few generations, what I have seen of the progress of improvement here, would hardly be credited as possible: and this is the more strange, as every body in this growing country has witnessed similar scenes, and a corresponding growth almost in every part. While my posterity shall honor the memory of my honest and humble labors, and enjoy the blessings that these labors have procured them, let them not despise the memory of my days of grieving and humiliation, nor the small beginnings from which all our blessings have flowed:—and here I will close my principal labors and anxieties for the events of this life, ready to die, yet willing to live, for I am at peace with all mankind, and God hath blessed me with a hope of a glorious immortality.

The Township* of Bern is situated from 18 to 28 miles westward from Albany, on the height of land between Albany and Schoharie

* The reader will find much of what follows, in the Gazetteer, and perhaps, will regret, with our Correspondent, that his request had not been more fully complied with in that Work.

counties. The surface is uneven, and much of it broken by ledges and rocks, but the soil is good, in general, and under good cultivation.

Settlement.—About the year 1750, some few families of Germans made settlements on the flat lands near the creeks. In the time of the French war, from 1754 to '63, some families removed to Albany for safety. On their return after the war and during the peace, until 1775, they increased to 61 families, at which time Jacob Ball commanded a company of militia of 85 men, made up from this town and what now forms several other towns. Capt. Ball, with 63 of his men, went over to, and joined the enemy; the remainder tarried behind, joined the standard of their country, and fortified themselves by a picket garrison, at the place now called Beaverdam, at Whiteman's mills. Peter Deitz, being an Ensign under Capt. Ball, took the command of what men were left, and was soon after appointed Captain. Being called on to march against Burgoyne, he with a few of his men joined the army of the United States at Saratoga, where he lost his life by the accidental discharge of a musket in the hands of one of his own men. His Lieutenant, William Deitz, (a cousin of his) was appointed Captain in his room. His exertions in the cause of his country, excited the vengeance of the Tories and Indians. There came a party of them and surprised him in his own house; took and tied him to a gate post before his own door, and brought out his father and mother, his wife and children, and murdered them before his face; and carried him prisoner to Niagara, where he fell a sacrifice to their cruelty.

A number of Burgoyne's men being taken, (about eight days before his army surrendered) were carried to Albany, and liberated on condition of their going to work among the adjacent farmers. About 35 or 40 of them came into this town: a number of whom are still living, and have become wealthy farmers. Until 1785 or '86, the increase of inhabitants was but moderate, being wholly confined to the Germans. About that time some emigrants from New-England settled in this town, among whom was Samuel Abbot, from Lebanon, in Connecticut, who claims the honor of being the father of the first English child born in this town. From that time settlements increased rapidly. In 1787, most of the land was surveyed into lots of 100, and 120 acres each, and taken up rapidly;—seven years being allowed free from rent to settlers.

At that time, this town, together with Rensselaerville, Bethlehem, Guilderlandt, and Colonie, were all included in one town, by the name of Watervliet. In 1790, Rensselaerville, and what now is Bern, were incorporated into a town by the name of Rensselaerville; and in 1795, Bern was taken from Rensselaerville and incorporated into a town. The other towns have since been taken from Watervliet.

There are in this town, 5 Meeting-houses—one Presbyterian—one Dutch reformed—one Lutheran—one Baptist, and one

Methodist. There are six grist-mills, and about 25 or 30 saw-mills—two fulling-mills, and one carding machine, which in 1809, carded upwards of 12,000 pounds of wool, which was wholly made up by families for their own use.

General Description, and Natural Curiosities.—No doubt remains but that there is a rock or ledge of rocks under the surface of the land of the whole town, for in many places the rock is so nigh the surface that it becomes naked in the bottom of brooks and in the roads, yet there are many seams in the rocks, to admit the roots of trees, which grow very large.

The springs in general are on the heights of land, owing to the depth of earth that holds water, whilst the vallies in many places have so little depth of earth that the water is admitted into the seams and lost among the rocks.

There are in this town, two Lakes, containing about 100 acres each, one of which is called *Thompson's Lake*, and the other *Warner's Lake*. Thompson's lake has no outlet, except the water running into a ledge under ground, which is supposed to come out in a spring, about a mile distant from the lake, so large as to afford water sufficient for a grist and saw-mill about one mile from the spring. On the stream which issues from Warner's lake, there are saw and grist-mills erected.

There is a swamp, (on a farm owned by Robert Denison) of about 25 acres, on the banks of which, after digging off 6 or 8 inches of the soil, we come to sand which is white, nearly resembling the sand on the sea shore. There is also, in this swamp, a Cranberry bog of about four acres, the turf of which is so tough that a man may walk on it; while the turf floats on the water or mud, which is so deep that there has never been found a pole long enough to reach hard bottom. On this bog there are hassocks that produce larch trees from 5 to 15 feet high, bearing all the marks of old age, and which rise and fall as the swamp fills with water or dries away. A man may stand upon these hassocks, and by springing up and down, or tottering as he stands, may shake the bogs, trees, and all, for 3 or 4 acres at one time. The principal outlet to this swamp, is by the water running into the rocks under ground.

Near Major Abbot's there is a deep pit in the rocks which receives the water while the snow is melting, where it congeals, in which it remains the whole summer. There are also many caves, somewhat similar, that are made use of to keep fresh meat and butter cool in the summer.

There are plenty of lime stone, more especially in the north part of the town, in which, as well as in stone called bastard lime stone, there is the shape of shells, such as cockles, muscles, and almost all sorts of shells usually found on the sea shore. By breaking the stone, the shells fall out in perfect shape, and when broken, are found to be solid stone.

In our creeks are to be found lobsters from 3 to 5 inches long, that in every particular resemble a sea lobster, as much as a child resembles a man.

On a farm owned by Andrew Kough, there is a cave, the mouth of which is in a hollow or basin, about 12 feet across; the hole in the rock is about 2 feet wide and 4 feet high. A number of men explored the cave in 1808, and give the following account:—After passing a descent of about 30 degrees, 30 feet, the passage increasing, they descended 6 feet perpendicularly; they then came into a room 30 feet long and 12 feet wide, forming an arch 10 feet high. At one end of this room they found an opening in the rocks of 6 or 8 feet, with a gradual descent, where they descended 14 feet perpendicularly, into a room as large as the other, and from 20 to 25 feet high. In passing this room 40 feet, it narrows to about 6 feet; they then proceeded about 70 or 80 feet, nearly in a horizontal direction, at the extremity of which a dim light appeared through the holes, in the rock above—one man, more daring than the rest, ascended the rocks at the hazard of his life, and with many difficulties made his way out of the cave, about 12 rods from where he entered. There is a small brook running through the last or lower large room, which settles into the rocks on the opposite side, the water of which is very pure and cold. The land over the cave is nearly level, and produces large timber, and is suitable for plough land, and there is not 2 rods of waste land in the vicinity of the cave.

There is a ledge of rocks on the line between the Towns of Bern and Guilderlandt, 17 miles from Albany, running nearly parallel with the Hudson river. The northern extremity of this ledge is on the aforesaid line, whence it runs southerly into Bethlehem, and with some exceptions, continues to the Catskill mountains. Its height varies from 400 to 800 feet. The rocks from the top of the ledge are in many places 200 feet perpendicular, and in some they shelve over from 30 to 50 feet, forming a bold front to the spectator below; this ledge for many miles is inaccessible, except by the assistance of ladders. There is a remarkable cave in the side of this hill, about 100 feet from the top. By the assistance of ladders, persons have been enabled to descend to the mouth of this cave, which is 3 feet wide and 6 feet high. On entering this cave about 30 feet, it becomes 6 feet wide and 5 feet high. Going from here 95 feet, we come to a room 10 feet wide, 20 feet long, and 12 feet high; then going through a difficult passage for a considerable distance, we come to a room much larger than the other; this room being about 400 feet from the entrance, and the candles being nearly extinguished by means of the foulness of the air, the adventurers desisted from pursuing their subterraneous travels.

On the side of this hill is also a place called Johnson's mines, where the rocks are 70 feet high and project over 50 feet. A person whose name it bears spent much time and money in trying to discover valuable fossil and mineral substances. A gentleman who examined this mine in 1808, found salts of iron or copperas, and sulphur in nearly a pure state. A kind of magnesia, and red paint resembling Spanish brown, and to appear-

more equally as good—but time must determine its durability. Many other singular and curious substances were found, which may hereafter become beneficial to society.

One thing that he thought worthy of observation was to be seen at that time. Directly over the mine, a small stream of water coming from the top of the rocks had formed a round icicle, 3 feet in diameter and 70 feet high, attached only to the top and bottom. During the month of February and the fore part of March, the weather was uniformly cold, which caused the water to freeze as it ran down, and continue to increase until it had formed the column of ice above described.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

NO. I

ON PARENTAL DUTIES,

Particularly addressed to Parents professing Religion.

A FATHER, deeply sensible of the solemn and important task which this relationship imposes upon him, after much meditation on the subject, takes his pen with an intention to pass in review some of the reflections which have occupied his mind, and to offer them for the serious consideration of others. His intention is, to enquire after the truth, as it is in Christ Jesus; and feeling it due to his faith as a Christian, this exercise, on which he enters with solemn and religious deliberation, will not, intentionally, give any offence to those Parents whose religious tenets may differ from his own. It will be the particular purpose of the papers which he proposes to offer, to consider the change of views which conversion produces; and with the new duties which religion enjoins, to examine some of the difficulties that the Christian Parent has to encounter. The observance of the mere rites of a worldly religion, is attended with little difficulty; but the religion of Christ, of the Kingdom of Heaven, must be a Religion of the Cross to every natural mind. How is this Cross to be borne?

There is, perhaps, no person of sound understanding, and who has been habituated to serious thoughtfulness—no person of a mature age, or at least no Christian Parent, who will hesitate to ascribe to this subject an importance inferior to none, save one, on which the mind of man can be exercised. Next to the salvation of our own souls, the souls of those 'whom the Lord hath given us,' claim the most serious and unremitting attention. Such are the sentiments of the Christian Parent, of whatsoever denomination, if you can find him in his secret devotions, abstracted from the business and the cares of the world. But, no man is born a Christian. All men are, at first, born of the flesh. All his views and desires are fleshly. Born into a natural world, his nature is fitted for its enjoyments;—but, destined by Jehovah for another world, and for higher enjoyments;—to pass from a natural to a spiritual existence, he must be born again,

to another nature; or he can never 'see the Kingdom of God.' Here I pause;—and I entreat of every Christian Parent, who may read what I am now writing, to do the same.—If, indeed, these promises be well founded, there can be no eternal hope for man, till he be born again, born of the Spirit, which is spiritual, into spiritual life: and by which cometh election, 'through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience.'† How, then, must this new birth, this spiritual regeneration, by which; and by which alone we become the children of God, heirs of the promise of eternal life, 'and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ;'‡—how must this change affect our views! Before, the children of a natural world, with gross perceptions, and all our views bounded by reason alone; now, our views embrace the Heavens, for revelation hath taught us of the Spirit, and the Spirit, while it invites us to look forward for eternity, hath taught us to aspire for Heaven, and that there the Almighty God, who hath become our Father, awaits our coming!—Here again I pause—for I am led to contemplate on the important change which now engages the Parent's attention. A Heaven hath burst upon his view, a world of spirits; and a God all love and compassion, calls both him and his to the mansions of eternal bliss! On what conditions? Obedience—obedience; more acceptable than all sacrifices under the Law and Gospel—and more difficult, because more forbidding to the natural mind. The sons of God, must come to Him, as children to a natural Parent. Canst thou, being a natural Father, yield the obedience that He requireth, to thy Spiritual Father? Young, too, in faith, thou art just now entering into a new life, and with views so changed that all the past seems worse than vanity. Until now, the fashion of things had been altogether worldly. Wealth, the pleasures of sense, and worldly honors, had occupied all thy cares. Well—wealth is thine, and much of worldly honors;—and much hast thou enjoyed of the pleasures of sense. Thou hast large possessions, and thou hast long enjoyed the chief seat in the synagogue, the highest at the feast—and men have bowed to thy wealth in the market-places and in the streets. Hadst thou thy full of pleasure? Alas, Alas! Speak of this obedience, (in the humility and contrition of thy heart,) to thy slaves—to thy hirelings—to thy family;—go in tears to thy wife and daughters, and tell them what God hath done for thee—and talk of that Heavenly temper which beamed on thee in thy closet, and of that child-like obedience and meekness, which God requireth of thee now,—and they—yea—the wife of thy bosom, and the children that God hath given you; and thy slaves, and thy hirelings, will probably mock thee with shame! Ye idolised the things of sense; ye worshipped Mammon—all ye together have done this;—and now, how can they change their Gods for thine!

Do not take offence at this, Reader—the picture is not meant to be literal.—If thou art a Parent, take heed to thy example;

* St. John, iii. 3.

† 1 Peter, i. 2.

‡ Romans, viii. 17.

If a Christian Parent, adhere, always, at all-times, to thy faith ; and may God enable thee to discharge, in it, thy duty to thy Maker, and to all those whom He hath given thee.

Here again let us pause and meditate—for this is not meant as mere declamation ;—let us deeply deplore the depravity of our natures, so estranged from God and His grace ;—so prone to lay up for ourselves wrath against the day-of-wrath. ‘No man can serve two masters : for either he will hate the one, and love the other ; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.’* Such is the language of the blessed Saviour of the world ; and it becomes all, and especially all who profess a living faith in Him, through Divine Grace, to keep this constantly in their minds. Can any Christian Parent be guiltless, who fails to teach this doctrine to his children ? I fear not—and much I fear that little of the spirit of this doctrine, runs in the course of most Parents who profess the name of Christ. An estate, a title, an equipage ; to rise in the world, as it is called, and above all to bring forward our children ;—these are objects of chief concern ! A polish of manner that shall eradicate every peculiarity, and assimilate with those just above us, in the ranks of fashion, is the way to rise in the world, and to carry forward our offspring ! Such is the way of the world ! Perhaps Religion may be fashionable. The Parent then sees, every Sabbath day his splendid equipage at the door of the Church, and his seat is esteemed one of the highest in the temple of Religion. I judge him not ;—but if he goes there as a worldling, the greater will be his condemnation at that day when the light shall break in upon his benighted mind, and make manifest that, ‘ye cannot serve God and Mammon.’

CLERICUS.

(To be continued.)

* Matt. vi. 24.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE,

HOURS OF STUDY,

Addressed to a young Gentleman who requested the writer to lay down for him a system of rules for the best distribution of his time at the University, or to point out the best authors on this subject.

There are a great many Students in this world, and a great many who are not Students that would pass for such ;—of course there are a great many interested in the questions, what is the best distribution of time for the Student, and which the best hours for study ? Students, and especially those of the younger classes, expect to find every question that may arise, and every enquiry, in print, with the answer or explanation in some book : and in default of both these, they resort to a friend, and often when they had better consult themselves. The questions are stated—and now for the answers. Nothing can be more unfortunate than to be puzzled with different opinions, and I shall therefore pass by every body's opinion but my own, by far the easiest way to settle all knotty points. Why should I tell

you of Gilbert Wakefield, who always rose with the morning dawn, and died at 46, of old age? Or of Johnson, that giant of literature, who lolled in bed till noon, and sipped his evening tea till the morning of the morrow? Or of Milton, who at different periods of his life, was an example in each extreme, of early and late hours of study, regular and irregular? Or of Sir William Jones, whose learning was almost as diffusive as the rays of the sun, and whose hours of study were as regular as its morning, noon, and night? Or of Gibbon, who loved good living, and dress, and the feast, and the closet alternately—for he was a foe to late hours of study, and yet finished his history between the hours of eleven and twelve at night? Or of Sir Isaac Newton, whose whole life was a study—not so much from books as from nature, and all his time was devoted to meditation? Or of the many thousands of others, distinguished by their learning or sense, or in some other way, and now proposed as examples? You have your own body, mind, and habits; they had theirs—they probably, who most consulted their peculiar ability, and the nature and reason and fitness of things, as adapted to each individually, best succeeded in their application—and so may you do. Now here is my opinion—and hereafter you may find it in books—be always governed by circumstances, striving to act with discretion and prudence, for this is the best rule.

I know a man who adopted, early in life, one of those systems which prescribe certain hours as far preferable to all others, for study; and who persevered in this plan, whatever might be the state of his mind, till he was rapidly sinking under its influence. And although the time prescribed was even too large a portion, as I should think, he progressed slowly in his studies. Rejecting this system, formed for him by others, he studied afterwards much or little of the time, according to the state of his mind and his bodily health; and he has ever enjoyed a good state of health since, progressing rapidly in his studies, without those hours of wearisomeness and lassitude which had before prevented every enjoyment, and finally undermined his constitution. Fortunately, this Gentleman now presides over an institution of learning, where hundreds are likely to derive the benefit of his experience, in relation to the proper hours of study. The only rule that he would now prescribe to himself, is, to allow the mind at least a half hour of rest, from every labor, immediately after each meal;—being temperate in all things.

SENEX.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

Some years since, while making some observations on the growth of vegetables, in which the circulation of their juices had been particularly attended to, it occurred to me that this circulation was occasioned solely by the influence of various degrees of

temperature, in the air and in the plants. The regular diurnal ascent and descent of the juices of many vegetables, particularly in the Spring of the year, is familiarly known, and few people can be found who do not fancy themselves acquainted with the cause. If the question be put, however, to 100 persons, their opinions will probably differ as much as on almost any other subject. Is not the ascent of the sap solely occasioned by the warmth that expands the parts, and forms within the sap-vessels, to a certain degree, a vacuum? and the descent occasioned by the absence of this cause, after a certain time, when the heat is diminished?

The maple tree, the most familiar subject for this kind of reasoning in this country, ceases to afford sap whenever the trunk of the tree falls below a certain temperature—but a single limb may be chosen, and pulled within your dwelling, where the temperature of the day is kept up, and this limb will afford sap through the night, though all the rest remain dry. This is an experiment which I have often witnessed, on a large shade-tree that grew near the wall of a house in which I resided.

Among the plants that grow with the greatest rapidity, it is common to observe an exterior of a compact formation, impervious to air, while the interior is quite hollow, or partially filled with a soft porous substance, not unlike to sponge. This is the pith, and no plant will flourish when it is removed. It seems, indeed, a vital part, whether it occupy a large or small space. Is not this spongy substance, especially in those plants which grow the most rapidly, designed as a kind of reservoir of their moisture; and is not this supplied with moisture by the expansive power of heat, acting on the exterior case, for so I must call the woody part that forms the outside? By enlarging the space that it encloses, a kind of suction is formed that operates through the pores of the roots, which receive and transmit the moisture of the soil. Could any body prove, conclusively, that the sap-vessels of wood are filled with air, or that they contain any considerable portion of air, the expansion of heat could not be the cause of the effect that I have noticed. It is easy to detect air in the bark of most vegetables, and the leaves both emit and inhale air, but I have never been able to discover any air in the sap-vessels of any kind of wood. Has any body?

These observations and enquiries might readily be extended to a great length, but my purpose is principally to invite the remarks of persons better qualified to do justice to a subject full of curious interest, and of no small importance to philosophical science.

With a view to further discoveries, I have lately been making some experiments on the leaves and stems and the fruit of several kinds of vegetables, the result of which I send you. The pumpkin vine has a rapid growth, and the stems are hollow and smooth within. On a vine of this kind, I have been making some experiments in order to discover the correctness of my suppositions. It is more than 40 feet in length, of a vigorous growth, and the stems are so numerous and their cavities so large, that admitting the daily expansion of each to be but little, and it cer-

tainly is something, the aggregate amount must be very great, and the effect, or power of suction exerted through the roots, equal to the supply of a great quantity of that peculiar moisture which its nature requires and which it is fitted to elaborate. By perforating the stems while quite small, with a very small opening, the stem and the leaf cease to grow, or at least do not, nearly, keep pace with the other leaves and stems. A small hollow wire, run through one side only, but leaving an opening for the admission of air, produced the same effect: while the wire, being run completely through both sides of the stem, leaving no opening for the admission of air, produced no effect that I could discover, on the growth of either the stem or the leaf. The same experiments on the young pumpkins, were attended with similar results, and I must therefore conclude that the fruit also, while growing, is formed by nature into a kind of suction engine, the same as has been observed of the other vegetables. But, I have other reasons for this conclusion. Having carefully measured the diameter with callipers, I am convinced that this is sensibly affected by the temperature, independently of the regular increase occasioned by growth. Trying this supposition by observations and experiments on apples, pears, and several other kinds of fruit, I am either deceived, or the results are the same as above noticed. But with the cucumber, I am somewhat confounded, though I do not yet despair. This fruit grows, principally, when the weather is favorable, in the night, the more especially if exposed in the day-time to the direct rays of a powerful sun. In this case, the cucumber seems to contract during the latter part of the day, and the juices, when exposed to a powerful sun, become viscid, and extremely unpalatable. In the morning, when the fruit has expanded by a very quick growth, the juices are again limpid, and more palatable. Was not this shrinking occasioned by a partial disease, (for the plant, suffers in every part,) induced by the excessive heat?—excessive to this plant, though genial to many or most others? If so, I have nothing to apprehend from the cucumber, which having excited my fears, kindly offers me the strongest confirmation. The heat may have been, for a short time, greater than the plant could bear, without injury. But of this, as of all the other conjectures and experiments and arguments, which I have adduced, the public will judge. It is to be hoped that, if these conjectures are founded in error, some person will offer a better explanation, and set this matter in a proper light before the public.

AGRICOLA.*Sept. 1815.***FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.****BRIEF REFLECTIONS ON THE FOUR SEASONS.**

It will probably have occurred to most of my readers, that not only do the several seasons of the year possess a peculiar controul over our sensations of pleasure and pain, but that the effect or influence of these is constantly changing with our pro-

gress in time. In the early periods of life, when the blood is warm and its currents brisk and lively, we are enraptured with the spring of the year, as with the spring of life. Passing onward, with the changes of increasing age, we embrace such other scenes as correspond with our feelings and state of mind, till in the evening of life, most men, of contemplative minds, are charmed with the Autumn, or the evening of the natural year. Such, at least, have been the results of my own experience, travelling onward from the morning to the evening of life. Life has often been compared to a circle;—and when in old age I am consoled with the fruit, and the fulness, and perfection, which the vegetable world is prepared to account at the close of the year, well pleased to see all the Works of God perfect in their kind; still there is a certain childishness in my nature that carries back my enraptured senses, and fixes the most feeling and affectionate of my recollections on the *Spring*! Such is man! Constantly looking forward, through life, till, at its evening, on the very border of the grave, he is eagerly casting backward a longing eye on the enjoyments that are past and gone forever. Like the Israelites of old, longing for the leeks and onions of Egypt, when he is doubly bound by every consideration of nature and reason, of faith and hope, to press forward for the prize beyond the grave. The grave, cold mansion,—forbidding as yonder north-wind, driving in curls the fleecy snows of winter, while my feeble limbs are shivering with age and with cold. At my time of life, when the natural warmth of the body is so diminished by age, the idea of cold has a terror that youth never knows—but Autumn, in which are blended the extremes of heat and cold, delights me with a cheering warmth, and its air of ripeness, and maturity, and abundance. Such are the sensations of my better years, and of those hours of resignation and hope which they bring, or used to bring. But, Winter frowns close on the heels of Autumn, and closer and closer as each year has borne me forward—till, while I watch the falling leaf, which I used to do with delight, I am forced to remember and to fear the severity of cold that soon is to follow. Thus it is that we are alternately advancing in hope and retreating in fear, through life—and soon must I lose, by anticipation, the enjoyment of Autumn, through a dread of the cold of Winter! There was a time, indeed, when recollection destroyed no present pleasure, by presenting a fore-taste of any ill. The birds sang sweetly on every bush, the buds were putting forth their beauties, and the flowers their fragrance—the lambs and the calves delighted in their sports, and while all nature presented the appearance of life, of activity, and happiness, my joy was full in the joy of all around me. The Summer came, with its first fruits; and the Autumn soon poured forth its stores in abundance, and still all was gaiety and life and happiness. *The fall of the leaf* had something in its aspect rather drear, but a momentary pensiveness was followed by the annual renewal of the usual sports at the school-house, where

all the boys of the village were collected daily from Autumn to Spring; and by all the numerous diversions of Winter.

Thus in youth, in the morning of life, all is Spring; in middle age, all Autumn;—and while my palsied hands now guide the pen, I am compelled to proclaim, that, in old age, all is Winter. September is come, and I need a January fire: for the blood creeps slowly through my veins, the muscles are relaxed and debilitated, and my poor old bones but ill sustain a tottering tenement of clay, which must soon be restored to its kindred earth. From this stage, when I look back on life and trace a wayward progress through its changing scenes, I mark the progressive changes of views and feelings, dwelling on the delights and recollections of the periods of time, all recorded by memory on the very leaves and pages as it were, of the various seasons of the year. If I turn to the Spring, the lambs and the calves that I tended—behold they have bled long since. The birds have returned and gone in their season, and now where are they? The fruits of both Summer and Autumn, are gone—are turned to dust. The snows of Winter—they have been changed to water almost an hundred times, and again will soon return in snow or ice. And where are now the friends of my youth, whose hearts were as mine own to me?

It is now Autumn, but not the Autumn of my youth—and the grave seems almost to demand me as its right. The leaves will soon fall from the trees, for they are ripe in nature for death. In Spring they grew—were matured in Summer, and in the Autumn they have a ripeness even unto the consummation of a perfect life, and thus they fall and die. But Man—nay, in my old age let me no longer moralize on man in general terms—but I myself;—have I this maturity, this fitness of preparation for inevitable fate! Alas! I am a sinner, but God is merciful and kind, and I pray for that inheritance which is assured in Christ, looking forward in hope to a blessed immortality beyond the grave.

AN OLD MAN.

Sept. 1815.

The following 'Solemn Review of the Custom of War,' was lately sent us in the form of a Pamphlet, by a patriot Statesman of the highest rank in the United States, inferior to none in every excellence of mind and character. Coming from such a source, and accompanied with a mass of additional testimony in its favor, the 'Review' has engaged much of our attention, as we feel well assured it must from every considerate Reader of this Miscellany. There appears to us a peculiar propriety in a solemn and deliberate examination of the Custom of War, just at this time. At no former period of our history, perhaps at no period of the history of the world, since man has known the society of man, could this examination be attended with greater interest or with more instruction. As men, as politicians, as statesmen, as legislators, as Christians—for each and all, the world abounds with the records and remembrances of recent events of the most portentous import, on which to reason, to meditate, and to decide for ourselves and posterity.—“Shall the sword devour forever?”

The writer of this little Pamphlet, whoever he may be, deserves the thanks of every sound moralist, every friend to humanity, and especially of every Christian.

Could we have obtained the consent of the distinguished philanthropist who sent it to us, we should have offered his remarks to our Readers—and this we are in hopes to do at some future day.

EDITOR.

A Solemn Review of the Custom of War; showing that War is the effect of popular delusion, and proposing a remedy.

"A glorious success, quietly obtained, is more profitable than the dangers of a battle; for we ought to esteem those who do what is agreeable to temperance and prudence, no less glorious than those who have gained great reputation by their actions in war." *Vespasian.*

SECTION I.

"Shall the sword devour forever?"

We regard with horror the custom of the ancient heathens in offering their children in sacrifice to idols. We are shocked with the customs of the Hindoos, in prostrating themselves before the car of an idol, to be crushed to death; in burning women alive on the funeral piles of their husbands; in offering a monthly sacrifice, by casting living children into the Ganges to be drowned. We read with astonishment of the sacrifices made in the papal crusades, and in the Mahometan and Hindoo pilgrimages. We wonder at the blindness of Christian nations, who have esteemed it right and honorable to buy and sell Africans as property, and reduce them to bondage for life. But that which is fashionable and popular in any country is esteemed right and honorable, whatever may be its nature in the views of men better informed.

But while we look back with a mixture of wonder, indignation and pity, on many of the customs of former ages, are we careful to inquire whether some customs which we deem honorable, are not the effect of popular delusion? and whether they will not be so regarded by future generations? Is it not a fact, that one of the most horrid customs of savage men, is now popular in every nation in Christendom? What custom of the most barbarous nations is more repugnant to the feelings of piety, humanity and justice, than that of deciding controversies between nations by the edge of the sword, by powder and ball, or the point of the bayonet? What other savage custom has occasioned half the desolation and misery to the human race? And what but the grossest infatuation could render such a custom popular among rational beings?

When we consider how great a part of mankind have perished by the hands of each other, and how large a portion of human calamity has resulted from war; it surely cannot appear indifferent, whether this custom is or is not the effect of delusion. Certainly there is no custom which deserves a more thorough examination, than that which has occasioned more slaughter and misery, than all the other abominable customs of the heathen world.

War has been so long fashionable among all nations, that its enormity is but little regarded; or when thought of at all, it is usually considered as an evil necessary and unavoidable. Perhaps it is really so in the present state of society, and the present views of mankind. But the question to be considered is this; cannot the state of society and the views of civilized men be so changed as to abolish a barbarous custom, and render wars unnecessary and avoidable?

If this question may be answered in the affirmative, then we may hope "the sword will not devour forever."

Some may be ready to exclaim, none but God can produce such an effect as the abolition of war; and we must wait for the millennial day. We admit that God only can produce the necessary change in the state of society, and the views of men; but God works by human agency and human means. God only could have overthrown the empire of Napoleon; but this he did by granting success to the efforts of the allied powers. He only could have produced such a change in the views of the British nation as to abolish the slave trade; yet the event was brought about

by a long course of persevering and honorable exertions of benevolent men.

When the thing was first proposed, it probably appeared to the majority of the people, as an unavailing and chimerical project. But God raised up powerful advocates, gave them the spirit of perseverance, and finally crowned their efforts with glorious success. Now, it is probable, thousands of people are wondering how such an abominable traffic ever had existence in a nation which had the least pretensions to Christianity or civilization. In a similar manner God can put an end to war, and fill the world with astonishment that rational beings ever thought of such a mode of settling controversies.

As to waiting for the millennium to put an end to the campaign, without any exertions on our own part; this is like the sinner's waiting God's time for conversion, while he pursues his course of vice and impiety. If ever there shall be a millennium in which the sword will cease to devour, it will probably be effected by the blessing of God on the benevolent exertions of enlightened men. Perhaps no one thing is now a greater obstacle in the way of the wished-for state of the church, than the *spirit and custom of war*, which is maintained by Christians themselves. Is it not then time, that efforts should be made to enlighten the minds of Christians on a subject of such infinite importance to the happiness of the human race?

It is not the present object to prove that a nation may not defend their lives, their liberties and their property against an invading foe; but to inquire whether it is not possible to effect such a change in the views of men, that there shall be no occasion for *defensive war*. That such a state of things is desirable, no enlightened Christian can deny. That it can be produced without expensive and persevering efforts is not imagined. But are not such efforts to exclude the miseries of war from the world, as laudable as those which have for their object the support of such a malignant and desolating custom?

The whole amount of property in the United States is probably of far less value than what has been expended and destroyed within two centuries by wars in Christendom. Suppose, then, that one-fifth of this amount had been judiciously laid out by peace associations in the different states and nations, in cultivating the spirit and art of peace, and in exciting a just abhorrence of war: would not the other four-fifths have been in a great measure saved, besides many millions of lives, and an immense portion of misery? Had the whole value of what has been expended in wars, been appropriated to the purpose of peace, how laudable would have been the appropriation, and how blessed the consequences!

(To be continued.)

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

The following Note, taken from the first Vol. of *Horæ Solitariae*, p. 12, ought to engage the serious attention of every person professing Christianity; but it is particularly desirable that such persons as are in the habit of profaning the Name of the Most High, should be reminded of the reverence and fear with which the Jews, His ancient covenant people, pronounce the Name *JEHOVAH*. It ought, indeed, to arouse every Christian, lest unawares the Lord make inquisition for this sin, when daily we bear His Name profaned in the streets, and repeated with a frequency and a degree of levity that would almost exceed belief. Let us all be admonished by the Jew, then, for his conduct in this matter deserves our highest praise: and may Parents, Guardians, Masters, Servants, all unite in remembering with honor, the reverence and faith of the needy Jew. No good child, will ever pronounce the Name of *JEHOVAH*, or any of the titles by which the ALMIGHTY God is known to us, but with the most solemn reverence; and much less ought any one to do so, who has lived to the years of manhood.

The writer of this feels a tenderness of sensibility on this subject, which

he cannot attempt to express. In early infancy, he had contracted a habit, from those around him, of profane swearing, and of those storms of passion, which so frequently accompany that habit, and mutually cherish each other. Convinced, however, by religious impressions, of the enormity of his offence against a just and merciful God, he ceased to swear, through fear and shame, in spite of the examples around him; and this restraint prepared the way for a better controul of a temper naturally boisterous and irritable. This is not boasting—but it is said in humility and love. The writer, knowing that it is easy, when the resolution is once formed, to break off from the habit of profane language, invites others to make the attempt, and may the God of our salvation prosper it.

“The Jews have many superstitious stories and opinions, relative to this name, [Jehovah] which, because they were forbidden to mention *in vain*, they would not mention *at all*. They substituted Adonai, &c. in its room, whenever it occurred to them in reading or speaking; or else, simply and emphatically, styled it *own the name*. Some of them attributed to a certain repetition of this name the virtue of a charm, and others have had the boldness to assert, that our blessed Saviour wrought all his miracles (for they do not deny them to be such) by that mystical use of this venerable word. Leusden says, that he had offered to give a sum of money to a very poor Jew at Amsterdam, if he would only once deliberately pronounce the name Jehovah; but he refused it by saying that he did not dare.—Alas! how many swearing professors of Christianity, will not even such a man's fear of profanation condemn it?”

THE WESTERN COUNTRY.

We have lately received, from some unknown Correspondents in the ‘Western World,’ for such indeed it is, a valuable collection of information relative to the Country West of the Apalachian Mountains, particularly the immense regions which are watered by the Monongahela, Allegany, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers. For this kindness, we tender our warmest thanks—as we are confident our Readers will do also, when we can present them with such extracts as our limits will permit. Believing that a very general anxiety prevails among our Readers, and throughout the countries where we find Patrons, for more intimate acquaintance with these Regions of the West, we shall commence with pretty copious extracts, selected, however, more with a view to miscellaneous variety, agreeable to the plan of our Work, than geographical or historical intelligence.

Among the various Papers, Pamphlets, Books, &c. which we have received, the ‘Navigator,’ from which follow some extracts, claims the first attention—and we take this method to present our thanks to the generous Donor. The Navigator is a duodecimo vol. of 360 pages, with Maps engraved on Wood, of Pittsburgh, and of the Ohio and Mississippi, with the islands, main channel, rapids, towns on their borders, &c. and distances throughout, besides much useful information concerning the adjacent countries, and the main streams tributary to the above rivers. The Title page, which follows, will give a general idea of the work.

It is written in a plain and simple style, with no affectation of learning, but with a rigid adherence to truth, so far as we can judge from appearances, and certainly with a becoming modesty. Having traversed these immense regions, by land and by water, near 20 years since, it may be that our curiosity to know more about them now, and to trace the progress of their improvements, is far greater than that of our Readers, or the public in general. But these circumstances induce one other remark, to which we invite attention. No large public or private Library in the United States, should fail to possess a Copy of this Navigator. Some centuries hence when populous cities shall decorate these shores, a crowded population throng the streets and ways, and thickly cover the fields of so many thousand miles with farms, villages and the various scenery of opulence and ease; when, in the remoteness of antiquity, all of the records and remem-

branches of events are hallowed by time, and principally lost, where else shall the Antiquary find so copious a record of their physical and political antiquities!

EDITOR.

The Navigator; containing directions for navigating the Monongahela, Allegheny, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers; with an ample account of these much admired waters, from the head of the former to the mouth of the latter; and a concise description of their Towns, Villages, Harbors, Settlements, &c. with Maps of the Ohio and Mississippi.—To which is added an Appendix, containing an account of Louisiana, and of the Missouri and Columbia rivers, as discovered by the voyage under Capts. Lewis and Clark.—Eighth edition—improved and enlarged.—Pittsburgh, 1814.

Spanish Moss Bend, is just below Island No. 82, in the Mississippi, counting from the mouth of the Ohio, and 440 miles below the mouth of that river. The river is here but about one third of a mile wide. The leaves of the peach were green here in Dec. 21, 1812, though the season was reckoned uncommonly cold. Immediately below this bend, is now *Ilechecko Settlement*, consisting of 4 small Cabins, and 1 Indian, 1 French, and 2 American families. In this bend the *Spanish Moss* or *Tillandsia*, makes its first appearance on the Mississippi. This singular vegetable is also called *Spanish Beard*, and holding this idea in mind when viewing it as it suspends itself in loose drapery from the branches of the tall majestic cypress trees, we are imperceptibly thrown into reflections bordering a certain degree of veneration, by combining with its appearance the venerable long grey-beards of former days.

This is a very singular vegetable, both in its growth and appearance, and as it is found highly useful, and I believe equal to hair, for mattresses, &c. it may be made an article of considerable trade and of exportation. It is universally used in Louisiana for all those purposes for which curled hair is applied in the northern states. Its cheapness is also an object of importance, being seldom more than from three to six cents a pound, delivered and prepared for mattresses, which is done something in this way: When gathered from the trees, which is easily performed with long hooks to tear it from the branches, it is then put under water a few days to rot the outer bark, or soft vegetable covering; when it is taken up, and after drying, it is beat with sticks, and the substance left is a fine black string or fibre, not unlike a horse hair, with the exception that it has joints from which the branches issue when growing. It is now fit for use. Mattresses made with this moss do not harden so soon as hair mattresses, but they become after some time dusty, and require to be opened, the moss taken to pieces, and beat again with sticks, and when replaced, it is better than at first, being more elastic and not so liable to acquire or make dust.

On first visiting a tree on which this substance grows, you are induced to believe that it has no root or fastening, but merely suspending from the branches, depending solely on the air for its nourishment. But on examination I found it firmly rooted in the apertures of the bark of the limbs of the trees, from which root there extended branches so numerous that it would be very difficult either to trace or count them; hence the deception, and so great, that some have said that the moss does not grow from, but is merely suspended to the branches of the trees, apparently without vegetable life. But this is a mistake; it flowers in its season, and bears a beautiful and a small pod full of seeds. The pod is about an inch long, and as thick as a stout darning needle. The flower is yellow.

Navigator.

The following Journal, kept by a British Officer, will afford some new information concerning a country and a government but little known, it is presumed, to the most of our readers.

Journal of a Captivity and short abode in Brazil.

Having always a mercantile turn of mind, I availed myself of the interval of the peace of Amiens to purchase a brig, and load her for the Mauritius

and the river Plate. I was sufficiently master of navigation to undertake the command of my own vessel and cargo, and every officer may obtain the same knowledge by at least two voyages across the Atlantic. Every thing being duly arranged, I commenced my voyage, and in the beginning of March, 1802, arrived at St. Helena. My stay there was about three weeks; when I again put to sea. A few days after our departure, we encountered a severe squall of wind, which obliged us to bear away for the nearest port in Brazil, and we arrived at St. Salvadore towards the middle of April.

We staid here a month to repair our vessel, and then sailed for Rio Janeiro, but were scarcely at sea, when a gale from the westward blew us directly upon a lee shore, from which we were not more than five miles distant. We found that we were directly off Porto Seguro, and deemed it prudent to enter it, and there wait for more favorable weather.

The day after my arrival, Spa. Gaspar, the son of the Governor, mentioned to me, in the presence of his father, the immense quantity of Brazil-wood in the province, and the high price it bore in Europe; and offered to barter a portion with me for goods, if it suited my views. I immediately accepted the offer, and the young man departed with the purpose of executing the contract. He returned to me, however, upon the following day, informed me that the article was contraband, and that the obstacles were so many, and so great, that he found it impossible to get any on board. The thing, therefore, was given up, but I was compelled to remain a few days to finish the repairs of my vessel. This business was going on, and the carpenters had nearly finished, when on the morning of the second of July, I was surprised by an officer and soldiers coming on board, with orders to take possession of the brig, and to send the crew to the prison of Forte Seguro.

We were accordingly ordered into the boat, and conducted along the beach, and up the hill to the common prison. They shewed us to an upper room, in the floor of which a small trap door was opened, a ladder put down, and we were ordered to descend. We obeyed, and entered a dungeon, many feet below the surface of the ground. A solitary bench of two planks formed the bed, and was the only furniture. Seeing that this prison, however, was too small to contain the whole of us, they left me, and one companion, in possession of it, and conveyed the crew to another quarter. From this day I kept a journal, from which I shall now continue my narrative.

July 15.—This morning opened very melancholy to us. Sleep had been a stranger to our eyes, the dungeon was miserably hot, and the air little better than putrid. The massy-barred windows, the cob-webs on the roof and walls, all added to our gloomy apprehensions.

19.—Finding that we were apparently forgotten, and the suspense continuing miserable, I wrote to the minister Claudio on the 19th, for a hearing; to which I had an insulting answer returned, that when he wanted he should send for me. On the three following days saw my crew pass the window for examination, which led me to hope mine was near.

24.—Had the satisfaction to see the ladder once again lowered; was summoned to the regions above, and conducted, under a guard, to the house of the commission. They interrogated me from three to eight o'clock, merely respecting the Brazil-wood transaction; when they informed me I should soon be called again. I was retaken to my prison, where I found my companion much alarmed by my long absence. I now felt hope once more revive my breast, and my frame was considerably invigorated by the fresh air.

27.—My examination was this day finished: after which I strongly represented our horrid situation, and got a promise of removal from the dungeon. At four in the afternoon, we were conducted above to a small deal-partitioned apartment, with liberty of walking in a larger one adjoining: each has a window without bars, and free circulation of that invaluable blessing, fresh air. An armed sentinel is stationed over us.

28.—Slept very ill; being obliged to keep our door partly open for the soldier to have an eye on our window; which is accommodated with a shutter to keep out the night air, but has no other fastening than a button to it.

We find the air as superfluous here as it was deficient below; our apartment was simply a square plank-work, about eleven feet high, open to the roof, which is supported by many beams: many of the tiles are wanting; and the chill wind, penetrating through, whistled over us very disagreeably. A number of bats, who find refuge in the building, also darted along, and completed the nocturnal *agrément*s of our new abode.

29 to 31.—Still much disturbed in the nights with officers at play, change of sentinels, &c. &c.: in fact the constant noise and confusion are shocking. Thank Heaven! I feel myself rapidly recovering: my companion is not so fortunate.

August 1.—At the time of seizure, the commission found in my writing desk a paper containing a small quantity of grain gold intermixed with gold coloured sand, which had been brought to me by an inhabitant of Porto Seguro as a sample. This strongly attracted their curiosity, and I was most closely questioned respecting it. I made no secret of whence I obtained the article, but declared I was ignorant of the name or residence of the individual from whom I had it, although I believed him to belong to a distant settlement. The commission declared they were resolved to discover the man, and insisted on my taking a journey with them for that purpose. I made no objections (knowing these would be useless); but predetermined it should avail them nothing had we met the person, which fortunately was not the case. This evening the linguist came to inform me I must accompany the minister, &c. in the morning, and be ready by five o'clock.

2d.—At six mounted our horses, altogether seven of us, and took the beach to the south. After an hour's ride, abruptly turned to the west into the country; and, ascending a steep height, soon arrived at the chapel of Nossa Senhora de Judea, on its summit. The prospect from hence is grand indeed, not only of the surrounding country, but commanding the adjacent ocean, upon which the white walls of the chapel form an excellent sea-mark: and its patroness, the Virgin, is particularly invoked by the neighbouring coasting vessels and fishing smacks, in cases of distress or contrary winds. The inside of the building is decorated with rude drawings of vessels in distress; and of sick chambers, having inscriptions under each, of the different cases which they are intended to commemorate.

After eating a biscuit and drinking some of the good vicar's water, we visited several plantations and *ingenios* in the neighbourhood, at one of which we procured an Indian guide. Taking the course of the river, we had a beautiful ride over a champaign country, wanting only cultivation to form the best meadow land; the soil black mould, at times gravelly, clay patches, and sandy flats.

Leaving the open land, we entered the woods of ages through a narrow path, which admitted only one horseman abreast, and was impenetrably defended from the sun's rays by overhanging branches, which sometimes were so low as to be very inconvenient. After two hours smart ride, the country again opened; and we passed several plantations of sugar-cane, mandioc, &c. with pieces of ground partly cleared, and numberless other spots capable of being converted into fine land, either for pasture or tillage. The scene now changed to a range of low hills, lying east and west, in the direction of the river, to which the land gradually descended; but on the opposite bank it rose precipitately to a high cliff, coloured with never-fading verdure. Riding parallel to these hills, about one o'clock arrived at the plantation and *engenio* of Joao Furtado. Here we alighted, expecting better accommodation than we might meet with at the Villa Verde, a little further; which, being an extreme settlement, is inhabited only by the vicar (a missionary), three whites, and a few converted Indians.

Our host was an old bachelor of seventy, who resided with a maiden sister of nearly the same age. The old man told me he was born near the spot; that his life had been a series of industry; and the *engenio*, (sugar estate) building, furniture, &c. were almost entirely the work of his own hands. I found him very conversant in the natural history of the country

around him, particularly in ornithology; and I was sorry our momentary stay enabled me not to obtain more information.

I found the accommodation of the house far superior to what I had expected from the general poverty of Porto Seguro; and, in fact, the best I met with in this part of Brazil: our welcome was free, provision well cooked (for the country), and tolerably clean. We dined on the ground, mats being first laid, and a clean cloth spread over them. There were plenty of earthenware (a rarity here), silver spoons, and knives and forks hafted with the same metal. At night, the bedding was decent and comfortable.

3d.—I arose with the sun, and was charmed with the country surrounding the plantation. The house itself was encircled with bannanas, cotton shrubs, cocoas, and orange trees; diverging from them, inclosures of canes, mandiok, &c.: to the westward lay a large tract of herbage, reserved for grazing, irregularly fenced with native woods; on its descent to the river, the ground, unequal, formed some beautiful hollows, patched with groups of trees, which, with the stream itself, and cattle on its banks, pictured the most delightful scene.

As I skirted the woods, I saw birds of the most brilliant plumage, one nearly the size of a turkey. Of these the *moutou* was particularly rich, of a deep blue, nearly approaching black, with a head and eye strikingly beautiful: toucans were numerous, and many others elegant indeed. Marmozets, both of the grey and silver lion colour, were in every bush; but their piercing shriek is disagreeable, and, if near you, penetrates to the very brain. I fancy I heard the distant growl of ounces, which are numerous, and fatal in their ravages; forming, with snakes, the chief scourge of the planters.

After dinner, we began our return by the same route, passing several scattered plantations, situate near the river for the better transporting their products to Porto Seguro, &c. The whole land besides (extending both ways to the next sea-ports) is entirely neglected; although finely watered with small streams in every part, where the cane, cotton, and mandiok, would grow with scarcely any labour, as well as the immense variety of other tropical produce: in short, where nature spontaneously offers her gifts, and invites the hand of man. But this beautiful country, one of the finest in the world, is entirely lost through want of inhabitants, of cultivation, and of industry; mines of wealth being buried, far exceeding all their mineral or metallic ones.

Absorbed in these reflections, I rode along, our party returning very silent, probably chagrined at their want of success in discovering the *presumptuous vassal* who had dared to touch or think of so prohibited an article as gold; but though the bird was flown, his rich nest remained. They found out the stream on whose margin the gold had been discovered: guards were directly appointed over it, and all approach to its banks interdicted.

Late in the evening we arrived at Porto Seguro, and I was remanded to prison, completely exhausted.

I was compelled to make complaints in favor of my crew, who have hitherto received an allowance of provisions by no means sufficient to support life. The commandant directly gave orders that the quantity of provisions should be increased, and jerk beef or salt fish regularly distributed; but they are, generally, such a set of villains, that I am afraid they will easily contrive to elude or frustrate this salutary regulation.

(To be continued.)

LITERARY NOTICE.

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, being desirous of extending the sphere of its usefulness, and calling into action the talents of those of its members, whose pursuits have been more particularly directed to the moral branches of science, has lately added to the number of its standing committees, a committee for history, the moral sciences, and general literature. The

number of persons composing this committee is indefinite, every member of the society has a right to enroll himself within it. Many of our associates having evinced a desire to participate in its labours, the committee has organized itself, appointed its officers, and is now sedulously engaged in promoting the objects of its institution. Among those, the means of obtaining a correct historical and statistical knowledge of our country have appeared to them not the least deserving of their immediate attention. Sensible of the eminent usefulness of the exertions of the societies established in some of the states for a similar purpose, and particularly in Massachusetts and New-York, they are anxious to concur in their patriotic pursuits, and, with that view, have already collected and rescued from oblivion several interesting documents illustrative of the history of the United States and of Pennsylvania. These will be given to the public in due time, either at large, or by extracts, in the transactions which the committee is authorised by the society to publish under its own responsibility. Meanwhile they think it their duty to solicit the aid of men of information throughout the union, but more particularly in Pennsylvania, and those other states where no analogous establishments have been formed. The historical memoirs of individuals, public documents, scarce pamphlets, manuscript notes, public and private letters from eminent men, and from men of knowledge and observation; in short, every thing which may be considered as interesting to this country in an historical, statistical, geographical or topographical point of view, will be thankfully received, either as a gift to be deposited among the archives of the Philosophical Society, or as a loan to be returned after a certain time to the owner. Communications of interesting facts, known to individuals by their own observation, tradition, or otherwise, are also respectfully solicited.

To the Pennsylvanians, the committee particularly address themselves. Many interesting points of the history of our own state remain to be elucidated. Many important details are yet to be collected respecting the aboriginal Indians, the emigrations from various countries which have so largely contributed to the increase of our population, the history and peculiar tenets and rules of discipline of the different religious sects that are established among us. Information respecting these and other matters connected with the history of this state, and particularly every thing relating to our venerable patriarch and founder, William Penn, and his first associates; their history in Europe and in this country; their political opinions, and views of civil government and policy, and the foundations which were laid by them for the prosperity and happiness which we now enjoy, will be received with peculiar gratitude. Our views, however, are not limited by the bounds of any particular state—this appeal is made to the citizens of the United States at large, and we confidently expect, that those members of the American Philosophical Society, who reside in different parts of the union, remote from the city of Philadelphia, will zealously co-operate in promoting the objects of the committee, who will be happy to see their names inscribed on their roll, and will inscribe them whenever requested.

All communications are to be addressed to the chairman or either of the secretaries.

Philadelphia, 14th August, 1815.

WM. TILGHMAN, *Chairman.*

PETER S. DUPONCEAU, *Corresponding Sec'y.*

JOHN VAUGHAN, *Recording Sec'y, P. T.*

At the request of a gentleman of the first respectability, we copy the following extracts from an excellent address of Judge Fletcher on the state of Ireland, from a late No. of the *European Magazine*. The address suggests many interesting reflections, and we think it will be highly acceptable to our readers. I would to Heaven, said the virtuous philanthropist, at whose re-

quest we copy this, after reading over the address attentively, that Ireland was the only country where fraud, hypocrisy and cunning, enabled undertakers and jobbers and managers, to impose on the good sense of the ignorant and uninformed.—Ed.

JUDGE FLETCHER'S ADDRESS

TO THE GRAND JURY OF WEXFORD, IRELAND.

Agreeable to our promise, we give the following extracts from Mr. Justice Fletcher's address to the grand jury of Wexford, who entered at large into the causes of Ireland's disturbances, which he strongly denied had any reference to political disaffection. He stated, that there was in Ireland "a magistracy over-active in some instances and quite supine in others."

He then proceeded as follows :

"This circumstance has materially affected the administration of the laws in Ireland. In this respect I have found that those societies, called Orange societies, have produced most mischievous effects; and particularly in the north of Ireland. They poison the very fountains of justice; and even some magistrates, under their influence, have, in too many instances, violated their duty and their oaths. I do not hesitate to say, that all associations of every description in this country, whether of Orange-men or Ribbon-men—whether distinguished by the colour of *orange* or of *green*—all combinations of persons, bound to each other (by the obligation of an oath) in a league for a common purpose, endangering the peace of the country, I pronounce them to be *contrary to law*. Of this I am certain, that, so long as those associations are permitted to act in the lawless manner they do, there will be no tranquility in this country; and particularly in the north of Ireland. There, those disturbers of the public peace, who assume the name of orange-yeomen, frequent the fairs and markets with arms in their hands, under the pretence of self-defence, or of protecting the public peace, but with the lurking view of inviting the attacks from the Ribbon-men, confident that, armed as they are, they must overcome defenceless opponents, and put them down. Murders have been repeatedly perpetrated upon such occasions; and, though legal prosecutions have ensued, yet such have been the baneful consequences of those factious associations, that, under their influence, petty juries have declined (upon some occasions) to do their duty. These facts have fallen under my own view. It was sufficient to say—such a man displayed such a colour, to produce an utter disbelief of his testimony; or, when another has stood with his hand at the bar, the display of his party badge has mitigated the murder into manslaughter."

After some further remarks on this subject, the judge proceeds to other causes:—

"Gentlemen, That moderate pittance which the high rents leave to the poor peasantry, the large county assessments nearly take from them;—roads are frequently planned and made, not for the general advantage of the country, but to suit the particular views of a neighboring landholder, at the public expense. Such abuses shake the very foundation of the law—they ought to be checked.—Superadded to these mischiefs, are the permanent and occasional absentee landlords, residing in another country, not known to their tenantry but by their agents, who extract the uttermost penny of the value of the lands. If a lease happens to fall in, they set the farm by public auction to the highest bidder. No gratitude for past services—no preference of the fair offer—no predilection for the ancient tenantry (be they ever so deserving); but if the highest price be not acceded to, the depopulation of an entire tract of country ensues. What then is the wretched peasant to do? Chased from the spot where he had first drawn his breath—where he had first seen the light of Heaven—incapable of procuring any other means of existence—vexed with those exactions I have enumerated—and harassed by the payment of tithes, can we be surprised that a peasant, of unlightened mind, of uneducated habits, should rush upon the perpetration of crimes, followed by the punishment of the rope and the gibbet? Nothing (as the peasantry imagine) remains for them, thus harassed and thus destitute, but with strong hand to

deter the stranger from intruding upon their farms; and to extort from the weakness and terrors of their landlords (from whose gratitude or good feelings they have failed to win it), a kind of preference for their ancient tenantry.

"Such, Gentlemen, have been the causes which I have seen thus operating in the north of Ireland, and in part of the south and west. I have observed, too, as the consequences of those orange combinations and confederacies, men, ferocious in their habits—uneducated—not knowing what remedy to resort to—in their despair, flying in the face of the law, entering into dangerous and criminal counter associations, and endeavouring to procure arms in order to meet upon equal terms, their orange assailants.

"To these several causes of disturbance, we may add certain moral causes. There has existed an ancient connexion, solitary in its nature, between the catholic pastor and his flock. This connexion has been often with very little reflection, inveighed against by those who call themselves friends to the constitution in church and state. I have had judicial opportunities of knowing, that this connexion, between the catholic pastor and his flock, has been in some instances weakened, and nearly destroyed; the flock, goaded by their wants, and flying in the face of the pastor, with a lamentable abandonment of all religious feeling, and a dereliction of all regard to that pastoral superintendence, which is so essential to the tranquility of the country. For, if men have no prospect here but of a continued series of want, and labor, and privation, and if the hopes and fears of a future state are withdrawn from them by an utter separation from their own pastor, what must be the state of society? The ties of religion and morality being thus loosened, a frightful state of things has ensued—perjury has abounded—the sanctity of oaths has ceased to be binding, save where it administers to the passions of parties. The oaths of the orange associations, or of the ribbon-men, have indeed, continued to be obligatory. As for oaths administered in a court of justice, they have been set at nought.

"Gentlemen—Another deep-rooted cause of immorality has been the operation of the county presentment code of Ireland—abused, as it has been, for the purposes of fraud and speculation, will you not be astonished when I assure you, that I have had information judicially, from an upright country gentleman, and a grand juror of unquestionable veracity in a western county, that, in the general practice, not one in ten of the accounting affidavits was actually sworn at all! Magistrates have signed, and given away, printed forms of such affidavits *in blank*, to be filled up at the pleasure of the party. This abuse produced a strong representation from me to the grand jury; and had I known the fact in time, I would have made an example of those magistrates who were guilty of so scandalous a dereliction of duty.—Another source of immorality may be traced in the registry of freeholds. Oaths of registration are taken, which, if not perjury, are something very near it. The tenantry are driven to the hustings, and there, collected like sheep in a pen, they must poll for the great undertaker who has purchased them by his jobs; and this is frequently done with little regard to conscience or duty, or real value of the alleged freehold.

Gentlemen, is there no method of allaying these discontents of the people and preventing them from flying in the face of the laws? Is there no remedy but act-of-parliament after act-of-parliament, in quick succession, framed for coercing and punishing? Is there no corrective but the rope and the gibbet? Yes, Gentlemen, the removal of those causes of disturbance which I have mentioned to you will operate as the remedy.—I should imagine, that the permanent absentees ought to see the policy (if no better motive can influence them), of appropriating, liberally, some part of those splendid revenues which they draw from this country—which pay no land-tax or poor's rate—and of which not a shilling is expended in this country! Is it not high time for those permanent absentees, to offer some assistance, originating from themselves, out of their own private purses, towards improving and ameliorating the condition of the lower orders of the peasantry upon their great domains, and rendering their lives more comfortable?—Instead of doing so, how do many of them act? They often depute their

managers upon the grand jury of the county. This manager gets his jobs done without question or interruption; his roads and his bridges, and his park walls all are conceded!

For my part I am wholly at a loss to conceive how those permanent absentees can reconcile it to their feelings or their interests to remain silent spectators of such a state of things—or how they can forbear to raise their voices in behalf of their unhappy country, and attempt to open the eyes of our English neighbors; who, generally speaking, know about as much of the Irish as they do of the Hindoos.

(To be continued.)

The following article, copied from the 'Naval Chronicle' of Great Britain, published in January last, may be amusing to some of our Readers, and to many it may furnish matter for political speculation, if not for argument and national pride.

MR. EDITOR,

5th December, 1814.

The *mismanagement* of the navy appears to me, as it does, I am convinced, to the great bulk of the nation, *so very obvious*, that I would confidently hope, our late disaster on Lake Champlain will rouse the people of England to a just sense of the degradation our flag has sustained, and of the ruinous consequences to be apprehended from the miserable policy of the present Board of Admiralty. With very few exceptions, our war with America has been one of disaster and misfortune; I will not say of *disgrace*, because our officers and men *have* fought bravely, and almost in every instance their commanders have not survived to see the British flag lowered; but it is certain, that we have an enemy of no common character to contend with; he has, on every occasion, fought as if confident he could wield the trident of Neptune as well as ourselves; and in many instances, too many, I regret to say, he has succeeded in obtaining victory. It is time, if we value our superiority, our boasted and long maintained empire of the main, for the nation to rise up *with one voice*, and to call on those in power to do their duty; to send *such officers and men* as are not only *willing* (for never was there a braver man than Captain Downie) but *able* to conquer: let the service be no longer trifled with, but make examples of those who send *guns* without *locks*, and *men* to man our ships in the *end* instead of the *beginning* of the year: it is evident they ought to have been on the Lakes in the month of May instead of September. This subject has been taken up in the House of Peers, and will be investigated; but I tremble for our naval supremacy if it is *trifled with*, or *easily passed over*; our stake is of the utmost value to us as a nation, and if it is played for by inadequate persons, little conversant in the game of *short bowls*, we must and will assuredly lose. At present I see nothing like vigour or energy pervading the Board of A. and we hear more of Mr. Secretary Croker's salute at Brighton, and his *respectful and gentlemanly* reply to the petition of the merchants of London, than of the capture and destruction of American men of war or privateers.

If we are to continue the war with America, for God's sake let us do it as Britons, and as the brothers in arms of a Wellington and a Nelson: otherwise, our laurels will wither entirely—they are already sickening and drooping. England expects *every man* to do his duty.

ALBION.

Onondaga, August 23d, 1815.

DEATH OF THE INDIAN PROPHET.

Died, at the Onondaga Castle, on the 20th inst. one of the chiefs of the Algonquians, well known through this country as the *Indian Prophet*.

Those who have been acquainted with the influence which this man's preaching has had upon the conduct of the Six Nations, (the Oneidas excepted) cannot but look upon his death as a severe dispensation of divine Providence. We think that a short *Biographical Sketch* of this extraordinary man cannot be unacceptable to the public.

During the first fifty years of his life he was remarkable only for his stupidity and beastly drunkenness.—About thirteen years ago, while lighting his pipe, he suddenly fell back upon his bunk, upon which he was then sitting, and continued in a state of insensibility for six or eight hours; his family supposing him dead, had made preparations for laying him out, and while in the act of removing him from his bunk, he revived. His first words were “don’t be alarmed, I have seen Heaven; call the nation together that I may tell them what I have seen and heard.” The nation having assembled at his house he informed them that he had seen four beautiful young men who had been sent from Heaven by the Great Spirit, and who thus addressed him.—“The Great Spirit is angry with you, and all the red men, and unless you immediately refrain from drunkenness, lying, stealing, &c. you shall never enter that beautiful place which we will now show you.” He stated that he was then conducted by these young men to the gate of Heaven, which was opened, but he was not allowed to enter; that it was more beautiful than any thing they could conceive of or he describe; and that the inhabitants appeared to be perfectly happy; that he was suffered to remain there three or four hours and was then re-conducted by the same young men, who, on taking their leave, promised they would visit him yearly, and commanded him to inform all other Indians what he had seen and heard. He immediately visited the different tribes of Indians in the western part of the State, the Oneidas excepted. They all put the most implicit faith in what he told them, and revered him as a Prophet.—The consequence has been, that from a filthy, lazy, drunken, wretched set of beings, they have become a cleanly, industrious, sober and happy people. The Prophet has continued, as he says, to receive regular annual visits from these heavenly messengers, immediately after which, he, in his turn, visited the different tribes. He was on one of these annual visits at the time of his decease.

It will be proper to observe, that he was called the *peace* Prophet, in contradistinction to the brother of Tecumseh, who was called the *war* Prophet.

ORIENTAL CORNELIAN.

The Parisians are now employed in discussions on a very curious oriental cornelian, bearing an exact likeness of Louis XVI. which was discovered in the stone by a M. Paradis, in 1800. Some attest it to be a natural production, others say it is not possible.

The stone in question is about two inches and an half in length, and one inch and an half in breadth. It was found amongst a number of other cornelians. When first M. Paradis saw it, he thought he discovered something extraordinary. He bought it and gave it into the hands of a skilful polisher, and watched the progress of his work. What was their astonishment, in discovering a perfect resemblance of the head of Louis XVI. surmounted by rays of glory! without one having been traced, the portrait being formed only of the veins and adulations of the stone. In 1812, M. Paradis showed this prodigy to M. Lesage director of the mint, who declared he had never beheld any thing so wonderful. Several persons waited on M. Paradis to see the stone, which became an object of public curiosity and admiration. The police, on being informed of these visits, took umbrage at them, visited the proprietor, examined the stone, and forbade him to shew it again.

The back part of the head of Louis XVI. represents an old man with a long beard, if regarded in one certain point of light. If a part of this beard is covered, it represents the exact features of Henry IV.

Considerable sums have been offered M. Paradis for this precious gem; but he has preserved it with the most scrupulous care, in the intention, sooner or later, to lay it at the feet of the royal family: his wishes have been crowned with success; the Dutchess of Angouleme has been pleased to accept it, and has thanked M. Paradis in the most honorable and flattering manner.

To the Editor of the European Magazine.

SIR,

There is an excellent hint in the last Quarterly Review for the common-place poets of the day, and their poetical jargon, at p. 88, and which, if attended to, will greatly relieve the wearied spirits of their readers. Their obscure inversions—their overcharged ornaments—their inherited phrases, called by the French *phrases ciselées*, used merely as botches to fill up the chasms of their verses, and the affectation of always writing *strong lines*, even without sense or syntax, all these are touched there by the hand of a master.

The fine arts would soon be reduced to barbarism, and poetry more than any other, were it not that a man of genius occasionally rises up to recall us back to truth and nature. Voltaire gave no quarter to that affected and absurd jargon which destroys all propriety of metaphor and strength of sentiment, nor to that ridiculous mixture of plain and poetical diction which disfigures many pure compositions; and he hated nothing more than when declamation and bombast were employed to raise little things into importance. He ridiculed those who accompany every word with an epithet; the redundancy of actual poverty, and the adjective, often made the greatest enemy to the substantive, though they agree so well in number and case. He says, "Good authors employ no more wit than is necessary; their thoughts are never far fetched, but conceived in good sense and expressed with perspicuity; at present, our writers seem to deal in enigmas. Nothing is simple, but every thing affected and unnatural." Those common-place ideas which fill so many books, as, Aurora opening with her rosy fingers the portals of the east—Zephyrs caressing Flora—Pleasure compared to roses and pain to thorns—all these, and such as these, were *originally*, doubtless, the invention of wit and imagination; the first who used them, and those who copied them before they grew stale, were poets, but, as Johnson said of the late Doctor Ogilvie's trite, but very fine poems—"All this was poetry, sir, but not in him!"

L. C. S.

*STRAMONIUM A VULNERARY.**To the Editor of the European Magazine.*

SIR,

I believe it has been long since ascertained, by the researches and experiments of Dr. Storck, and others, that many plants, commonly deemed deleterious, are nevertheless, in the hands of the skilful physician, capable of being made singularly beneficial.

Impressed with this idea, while lately perusing Michaux's Travels, I was struck with the underwritten passage, which I transcribed and now send to you.

For it appears that the stramonium, which has lately been found serviceable in asthmatic cases, is also a vulnerary.

And, lest this should escape notice, for the general good, I wish to make it known through the extensive circulation of your valuable Repository.

Kennington green, Dec. 12, 1814.

BRITANNICUS.

"At Alexandria, in Kentucky, and in other small towns of the Western Countries, which stand in a very rich soil, the space between each house is entirely covered with stramonium.*

"This dangerous and bad-smelling plant thrives in a surprising degree in

* This plant grows plentifully in and about Albany, and at the moment of extracting the above article, we were collecting a quantity of it, at the request of a friend in one of the western Counties of this State, where it does not grow, for whom it had been prescribed by the Medical Society of that County, in a case of epilepsy. Would to God it may prove effectual, and rescue an affectionate friend from the jaws of a premature death!

¶ In the 2d edit. of Michaux, London 1805, 8vo. the above extract will be found at page 103.

every spot where the soil has been cultivated for twelve or fifteen years; and notwithstanding all the exertions of the inhabitants, it seems to increase in quantity every year.

"It is supposed to have first appeared at James Town, in Virginia; whence it derives its name of James Weed.

"Travellers use its leaves for covering the wounds on the backs of their horses, that arise from the friction of the saddle."

Michaux's Travels to the Westward of the Alleghany Mountains, in the Year 1802, page 49, 8vo.

MECHANIC ARTS.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

Amongst the new Inventions and Improvements, which the ingenuity of man is constantly bringing into view, and which are so various and numerous in this country, that nothing of the kind can immediately attract much notice, I have selected an improvement in BRIDGE BUILDING, to which I invite your attention. Should nothing better be offered for your department of Mechanic Arts, I hope you will offer this for the consideration of your readers.

DESCRIPTION, and PRINCIPLE of the Arch, proposed by the inventor. The principle is, to construct an arch of sawed plank, the pieces of timber being of such dimensions that they may be bent or sprung to the occasion, or design of the builder, and so secured together, that when finished, it forms an artificial arch of any determinate dimensions or strength. Suppose a bridge were wanted of 100 feet span—when the abutments are erected, prepare intermediate frames, rising from each abutment toward the centre of the bridge, with such a crowning or rise as may be wanted. When this is done, the planks are to be laid on, flat wise, end to end, so as to form a complete arch from one abutment to the other, of one thickness of timber. A second tier is then to be laid on to this, crosswise, and the third crosswise to that, or in the same direction as the first, every two tier or courses being firmly attached by nails or pins, so as to connect them closely together, carefully fitting the ends to each other, and breaking joints throughout the whole length.—This is to be repeated till the whole forms one aggregate mass, of the dimensions or strength that may be required, when the whole is to be firmly bolted through-and-through with iron. The projector proposes to lay the upper courses in tar or pitch, to prevent the admission of water; and he supposes that such an arch may be thrown across the Hudson, at this City, sufficiently high to admit the passage of vessels, which would long resist the powers of time. Perhaps it may be well worth while to determine the actual strength of timber in the position that he proposes, and its ability to sustain great weights. In fabrics of this kind, there is too little attention paid to the lateral pressures and strains, arising from winds, &c. as well as to the irregular action of great power, occasioned by the passage of heavy loads. Is it not probable that many of the great wooden bridges which have so soon fallen, have been literally destroyed by the weight of their own strength? The ingenious proposer of this method thinks so, and he supports the opinion with a good deal of plausibility, at least. The experiments that I have witnessed, upon the strength of timber, placed in positions similar to what he proposes in his arch, leave me little to doubt of his effecting a great gain. But whether he can gain the same strength, with so much less weight of timber, as he supposes, is more than I can determine, without the aid of additional facts. Perhaps some of your Correspondents, acquainted with Bridge building, will favour the public with their opinions on this subject.

MECHANICUS.

August, 1815.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

In my travels through the western part of this State, I have noticed in several places, where the inhabitants propagate the gooseberry and currant in their gardens, that they raise the fruit in great abundance, and possessing a richness and perfection that I have never seen these fruits possess in any other part of the United States. I was the more particularly led to these observations by tasting the wines made from both these kinds of fruit—which exceeded, in every good quality, all that I had ever before found. I enquired for the cause, and found many unable to give me any satisfactory reasons, till at last I have succeeded, as I think, satisfactorily. Should you think so, you will doubtless give the substance of these remarks to your readers.

Both the currant and gooseberry plants, are very liable to send out many shoots or sprouts from the roots; and these lateral branches very commonly grow so thriftily as to rob the parent stock of a due proportion of its nourishment. The fruit, therefore, on the bush, possesses different qualities, and to so great a degree that collecting it altogether and making wine from it, the liquor is consequently injured. It is well known that the fruit, from which any kind of liquor is to be made, should be, as nearly as possible, all of one kind or quality. Pruning, may, and does in cases of sufficient carefulness, in a great degree prevent the injury complained of; but pruning is a troublesome process, and it is often much neglected. The inhabitants of this country, that is, several of those that I visited on my journey, supply themselves with plants which do not sprout, and of course require no pruning; from the roots. The best wines that I found, were made from plants of this sort, whose fruit is all very similar in size, flavor, and quality; and which all ripens nearly at one time. I examined these plants—they are a miniature of a tree—their stems erect, undivided, and the tops handsomely rounded up like those of the apple-tree. How they are previously guarded, to give them this form, which they always preserve, I know not, but there are people who do know, and who sell the plants at about a York shilling each, which they warrant never to sprout from the root. The fact is important, and ought to be known extensively; and so long as the plants can be bought at this low rate, the secret had better, perhaps, be concealed from the public.

AGRICOLA.

Canandaigua, August, 1815.

P. S. As the Autumn is the season for preparation, with the above plants, I request you to publish the above as soon as may be convenient.

THE WOUNDED DUCK.

As near the *Lake I chanced to pass,
 (The Lake that glittering fronts our door)
 A Duck was feeding in the grass
 That skirts the western shore.
 (The pausing stream is scarce so wide
 That two can trace it side by side.)

The bending blades above its head
 Concealed it from my sight,
 When nearer as I chanced to tread
 It saw me with affright,
 And fled in haste; and tho' the way
 Winded among the clustering grass,
 And tho' the broad Nymphæa lay
 Thick o'er the Wave it had to pass,
 Its silent wings made no essay
 To aid it on that tangled way.

* Elk Lake, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.

Wondering I stood to see the bird
Struggling, while not a pinion stirred.

When far enough within the Lake
I saw it raise itself, and shake
A dislocated wing.
A sore, and crippling wound it got
I then remembered, by a shot
Quite early in the spring.

Methinks I see its comrades rise†
To go beyond the shades of night;
While fluttering on the wave it tries,
But tries in vain to take its flight.
They pass in air—distress'd and sore
Wildly it wanders round the shore :

The shattered wing has ceased to smart
And calmer beats its little heart;
But from this tree-surrounded Lake
(Like sentries placed on every side)
Its way the Bird can never take,
And long it cannot here abide;
Yet blind to rising storms of fate,
It sits upon the wave, sedate.

Swift wheeling with the falling leaves,
Its former mates descend;
A glow of joy its breast receives,
But soon that joy must end :—
The ice that bars them from the shore,
Nightly advances more and more.

The narrow circle of the waves,
The freezing winds, impetuous, sweep;
No shelter while the snow-squall raves;
No food they find upon the deep.
To seek more hospitable climes,
Soft shores and never-freezing floods,
The morning sees them rise betimes
High o'er the snow-besprinkled woods.
Poor prisoner! how thy longing eyes
Pursue their journey thro' the skies!

Now fast descend the driving snows—
I see the ice around it close—
I see slow trotting from the shore
The Fox—and fancy views no more.—
* * * * *

I grieve that *sport* should ever claim
The right to murder and to maim;
Or as the mangled victims bleed
Should stand exulting at the deed.

Scipio, 8 *Ms.* 16, 1815.

DAVID THOMAS.

† It is probable that this species of Duck breed within the Polar Circle, as they are the first that arrive in the spring, and retreat from our climate only in the edge of winter.

AMERICAN REGISTER.*By the President of the United States of America.***A PROCLAMATION.**

WHEREAS information has been received, that sundry persons citizens of the United States, or residents within the same, and especially within the state of Louisiana, are conspiring together, to begin and set on foot, provide and prepare the means for a military expedition or enterprize against the dominions of Spain, with which the United States are happily at peace; that for this purpose they are collecting arms, military stores, provisions, vessels, and other means; are deceiving and seducing honest and well-meaning citizens to engage in their unlawful enterprises; are organizing, officering, and arming themselves for the same, contrary to the laws in such cases made and provided; I HAVE THEREFORE THOUGHT FIT TO ISSUE THIS MY PROCLAMATION, warning and enjoining all faithful citizens who have been led, without due knowledge or consideration, to participate in the said unlawful enterprises, to withdraw from the same without delay; and commanding all persons, whatsoever, engaged or concerned in the same, to cease all further proceedings therein, as they will answer the contrary at their peril. AND I HEREBY ENJOIN AND REQUIRE all officers, civil and military of the United States, or of any of the states or territories, all Judges, Justices, and other officers of the Peace, all military officers of the army or navy of the United States, and officers of the militia, to be vigilant, each within his respective department, and according to his functions, in searching out and bringing to punishment, all persons engaged or concerned in such enterprises, in seizing and detaining, subject to the disposition of the law, all arms, military stores, vessels, or other means provided or providing for the same; and, in general, in preventing the carrying on such expedition or enterprise, by all the lawful means within their power: AND I REQUIRE all good and faithful citizens and others, within the United States, to be aiding and assisting herein; and, especially in the discovery, apprehension, and bringing to justice, of all such offenders; in preventing the execution of their unlawful combinations or designs, and in giving information against them to the proper authorities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand. Done at the City of Washington, the first day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and of the Independence of the said United States of America the fortieth.

JAMES MADISON.**BY THE PRESIDENT :****JAMES MONROE, Secretary of State.**

Cession of the Islands in the Niagara River, by the Seneca Nation of Indians, to the State of New-York.

A TREATY,

Entered into this 12th day of Sept. 1815, at Buffalo, in the county of Niagara and state of New-York, between the Chiefs, Sachems and Warriors of the Seneca Nation of Indians, of the first part, and the People of the State of New-York, of the second part, witnesseth, as follows :

First. The said Chiefs, Sachems, and Warriors, of the Seneca Nation, in consideration of the sum of *one thousand dollars*, in hand paid, by Daniel D. Tompkins, Esq. Governor of the State of New-York, and of the covenants and agreements herein after contained, hereby sell, grant, convey, and confirm, to the People of the State of New-York, all the Islands in the Niagara River, between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, and within the jurisdiction of the United States. To have and to hold the same with the appurtenances,

unto the People of the State of New-York, in free and pure allodium forever, reserving, however, to the said Chiefs, Sachems, and Warriors, of the Seneca Nation of Indians, equal rights and privileges, with the citizens of the United States, in hunting, fishing and fowling in and upon the waters of the Niagara River, and of encamping on any of the said Islands for that purpose, whilst the same shall continue to belong to the People of the State of New-York.

Secondly. The People of the State of New-York, in addition to the sum of one thousand dollars, already paid to the said Chiefs, Sachems and Warriors of the Seneca Nation, covenant to pay them annually forever, an annuity of *five hundred dollars*, to be paid on or before the first day of June in each year hereafter, at Canandaigua, in the county of Ontario; the first payment to be made on the first day of June, 1816.

In testimony whereof, the said Chiefs, Sachems and Warriors of the one part, and Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of the State of New-York, and Peter B. Porter, Henry Crocheron, Samuel Yotmg, Roger Skinner, Esek Cowen, Robert Tillotson, and Lewis Livingston, Commissioners in behalf of said State, have hereunto set their hands and seals, at Buffalo, in the county of Niagara, the day and year first above written. [Here follow the signatures.]

Albany, Sept. 29, 1815.

Commodore Decatur has concluded a Treaty with the Algerines, which is not yet published in this country—nor is that lately concluded with Great Britain; although it has been for some time in the hands of our Government, and the publication of it is daily expected. A Treaty is also supposed to have been concluded with the Indians on our N. Western frontier, at Detroit. The American force at that place is from 13 to 1500 effective men; and 280 men have lately embarked at Erie, to join those already at Detroit. At Mackinaw, the Am. force is about 500 men.—Governor Tompkins returned to this city on the 23d inst. by way of Sacket's Harbor, to which place he went from Niagara, after concluding the treaty with the Indians, in company with Maj. Gen. Brown. The passage from Lewiston to S. Harbor, was made in 18 hours. The Governor left town on the 25th for New-York.—A plan has been formed in the City of New-York, to establish a Steam Boat navigation between that place and Charleston in South-Carolina, which it is thought will succeed. The capital proposed is 100,000 dollars, divided into shares of 100 dollars each. Subscriptions are said to be filling up that sum. It is supposed that a boat of 350 tons burthen will accommodate 100 passengers, and perform the passage to Charleston in 4 days.—Spanish dollars bear a premium of 17 per cent. in Philadelphia.—For some time past, almost every arrival in our ports has brought accounts of heavy gales at sea; and great damage has been sustained on our sea coast, from Georgia to Maine. At Wilmington, in N. Carolina, we have a detail of great sufferings and losses by late storms;—and 11 sail of dismasted ships and brigs were lately seen off Gay Head, all in sight of each other. Six of them went into Newport, Rhode-Island. At Albany, we have had the Equinoctial Storm, in a fine spirited style. The winds were high, the rain fell in torrents, the river rose to a great height, and probably has done considerable damage to the crops on the intervalles and low lands. At New-York, the wind and water were both threatening. The steam-boat Richmond, Capt. Bartholomew, in 18 hours from Albany, full of passengers, unluckily ran foul of a schooner in the North River about 3 o'clock on Saturday morning, and sustained much injury. She lost one of her wheels and anchors, and was driven into the bay below Governor's Island, in danger of foundering. At day-light, however, she contrived to beat into Buttermilk Channel, and fortunately got into Whitehall. The schooner also suffered considerable damage, and has hoisted a flag of distress.

☞ The annual Cattle Show and Fair of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, will be held at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on the 2d and 3d of October next.

THE POST-OFFICE—It has been the singular good fortune of the Post-Office Establishment of the United States, to escape much of that general censure which has, in turn, been pretty liberally bestowed on every other department of the government. And, perhaps, no part has been conducted with more distinguished ability. The following Table exhibits a condensed View of the progressive increase of business in this department, which, it is thought, may be interesting to our patrons. We have lately heard, indeed, many expressions of dislike, and of regret, both by the advocates and opponents of the present administration, at the late increase of postage, and many complaints about some arrangements of local concern. Perhaps these circumstances may be altered soon, and we confidently believe that a very large portion of the community expect a reduction of the postage, down to the former rates, during the next session of Congress. At the request of several of our patrons, we insert the present rates of postage for Magazines and Pamphlets.

<i>Rates of Postage for Magazines and Pamphlets,</i>	
Carried not over 50 miles, for each sheet,	1 1-2 Cents.
Over 50 and not exceeding 100 miles,	2 1-4 do.
Over 100 miles,	3 do.

General Post-Office, Dec. 28, 1814.

RETURN J. MEIGS.

<i>Table of the Post-Office Establishment in the United States from 1789 to October 1, 1813.</i>									
Years.	No. P. offices.	Amount of Postage.	Compensation to Post Masters.	Incidental Expenses.	Transportation of the Mail.	Nett Rece. nuc.	Extr. miles of Post-roads.		
1789	75	\$ 37934 92	\$ 8197 80	\$ 1861 19	\$ 22081 08	\$ 5794 96	1875		
1790	75	\$ 46294 43	\$ 10312 28	\$ 3091 79	\$ 23293 10	\$ 9637 26	1905		
1791	89	\$ 67443 86	\$ 16517 98	\$ 5281 50	\$ 32731 32	\$ 12913 06	5642		
1792	195	\$ 104746 67	\$ 21645 96	\$ 5659 73	\$ 44733 88	\$ 32707 10	5642		
1793	209	\$ 128947 19	\$ 27155 65	\$ 9812 48	\$ 53004 88	\$ 38974 28	11984		
1794	450	\$ 160629 97	\$ 30272 01	\$ 12261 96	\$ 75359 22	\$ 42726 76	13307		
1795	453	\$ 195066 88	\$ 35729 59	\$ 14353 21	\$ 81488 66	\$ 63495 42	13307		
1796	468	\$ 213998 50	\$ 47109 39	\$ 13622 68	\$ 89382 27	\$ 63884 16	16180		
1797	554	\$ 264846 17	\$ 63957 75	\$ 14605 22	\$ 109474 76	\$ 76808 44	16180		
1798	639	\$ 280804 31	\$ 69242 52	\$ 16106 76	\$ 128644 32	\$ 66810 81	20817		
1799	903	\$ 320442 40	\$ 78337 74	\$ 23362 81	\$ 152450 01	\$ 65291 84	22309		
1801	1095	\$ 351822 66	\$ 93169 51	\$ 24084 28	\$ 205110 33	\$ 51948 40	22315		
1802	1114	\$ 389449 64	\$ 107715 71	\$ 24321 29	\$ 205535 24	\$ 52945 74	29356		
1803	1258	\$ 421373 23	\$ 11151 97	\$ 26179 88	\$ 239635 52	\$ 44005 92	31076		
1804	1405	\$ 446105 79	\$ 119784 39	\$ 23416 11	\$ 269033 12	\$ 33872 17	33431		
1805	1558	\$ 478762 71	\$ 129941 16	\$ 32092 64	\$ 292751 29	\$ 24877 62	33735		
1806	1710	\$ 460564 18	\$ 128653 12	\$ 28676 18	\$ 305499 49	\$ 8621 78	34035		
1807	1848	\$ 506653 85	\$ 141579 09	\$ 23516 22	\$ 332916 77	\$ 55715 02	34035		
1808	1944	\$ 551683 97	\$ 144938 16	\$ 18564 57	\$ 327966 23	\$ 88148 51	37035		
1809	2012	\$ 587246 73	\$ 159243 72	\$ 20688 97	\$ 319165 57	\$ 109042 66			
1810	2300	\$ 649207 71	\$ 177422 12	\$ 22116 71	\$ 340626 22				
1811	2610								
1812	2610								
1813	2977								

In 1811, the yearly transportation of the mail, amounted to 5592653 miles, averaging 1 Post-Office to 153 miles of Post Road.

FOREIGN EVENTS.

Our selections from foreign news under this head, in the last Number of the Magazine, comprised an interesting and important series of events. Since the publication of that No., the current of affairs in Europe, so far as we have yet learnt, has been constantly setting in the same direction—toward the full restoration of the old order of things in France, and indeed in all Europe. Judging by what we have heard, the interval has not been productive of any great events. Bonaparte, in the custody of England;—and Paris and the most of France occupied by the armies of England, Prussia, Austria, Russia, &c. &c., with Louis XVIII. on the throne of France, seem events likely to gratify the wishes of the Allied Sovereigns at least. What events are yet to flow from these, is not for human wisdom to foresee. Enough of War, we would suppose, had been witnessed of late by the whole civilised world, to satiate desire: and it must be that the *people*, in all Europe, have long been wishing for peace. If so, and as the Sovereigns seem agreed at present, let us hope for the blessing of repose, and that all the nations may enjoy a long interval of peace. Bonaparte, securely kept on the rock of St. Helena, can no longer disturb the world with his plans of conquest;—nor will he even be accused of all the iniquity of all the Sovereigns and Rulers of the age. Let us hope, then, that the removal of this fell-destroyer, may produce much good to the world.—And while the English are watching him, let every American be admonished by his example, and learn in time to watch all those who would rise to power on the ruin of right. He had once the oil of persuasion dwelling on his lips, and unquestionably *has been* the man-of-the-people, in France, by which he rose to unlimited power in that ill-fated, degraded country.—One might well suppose that the events of time should long since have taught mankind to avoid those fatal errors which brought such signal curses upon the Israelitish nation, near 3000 years ago; and especially, when the Almighty himself had foretold to them by the voice of Samuel the Prophet, all the evils that would follow. Nay, said the Israelites, but we will have a King to rule over us, *like all the nations*. They were permitted to have their desire; and some were made servants, some butlers, and cooks, and officers of the King, who took, as had been foretold, of all the chief things that had belonged to the people, whom he made men-servants and maid-servants, to do his work. Israel was no longer free. And when they had experienced the truth of the prophecy, and besought the Lord for relief from the King whom they had chosen, the Lord did not hearken to them, as had been declared beforehand. These things ought to engage the attention of every freeman, for what was the experience of the Israelites, in this matter, has been that of all succeeding nations and ages;—and at least let every man in America, who is attached to its Republican institutions, look well to the late events of the political world. Is it the interests of the people, of one State or government that has led them to wage war with the people of another, or are the people the mere slaves of despots, who war against each other? The errors and faults of popular governments, which are of another kind, are none the less such, because opinion is free;—for where there is the more freedom of opinion, there is, of course, the greater diversity. But let us guard against every error. And while we watch, as Americans and Republicans, the man suspected of monarchical attachments, let us also watch him who *loves the Republic! who loves the People!* Let us, in short, be men, and cast away alike our childish toys, and the idols of our riper years. The Israelites had no King, till their Judges or Rulers ‘turned aside after lucre, and took bribes and perverted judgment.’ Would any American partizan learn how judgment may be perverted, let him ask one of the party of his political opponents:—his own is always in the right! In a love of country, the exercise of our attachments may be always amiable and commendable—but to make an idol of a party, an individual, or of several individuals, is the height of folly. Would the freeman be indeed free, let him forego the slavery of opinion, whether that opinion be held by one or many. The

ark of our political safety, is the Constitution, purchased by the blood, and bequeathed to us by the wisdom of our Fathers. Would we know the full value of this instrument, let us cast our eyes on the people of other countries, and learn to be wise before it be too late.

ED.

—
From the London Courier.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE, July 25.

Extract of a letter, from captain Maitland, of his Majesty's ship Bellerophon to John Wilson Croker, esq. dated in Basque-roads, the 14th inst.

For the information of my lords commissioners of the admiralty, I have to acquaint you that the count Las Casas and general Lallemand, this day came on board his majesty's ship under my command, with a proposal for me to receive on board Napoleon Bonaparte, for the purpose of throwing himself on the generosity of his royal highness the prince regent.

Conceiving myself authorised by their lordships' secret order, I have acceded to the proposal, and he is to embark on board this ship to-morrow morning.

The following is circulated as Bonaparte's letter to the Prince Regent of England. It is without date:

"Your Royal Highness,

"Must know that the political events that have occurred in Europe, have taken a turn which has induced me to retire from political life for ever. I have therefore resolved, like Themistocles, to seek an asylum upon the shore and homes (*foyers* is his expression) of the most powerful, the most constant, but the most generous of my enemies.

(Signed)

NAPOLÉON."

Translation of a dispatch of Earl Bathurst, to the lords commissioners of the admiralty.

Department of War, July 21, 1815.

My Lord—Having been informed to-day, that Napoleon Bonaparte has surrendered himself to the hon. capt. Maitland, commanding H. M. ship Bellerophon; his royal highness the prince regent hastens to embrace the opportunity of delivering the ports of France from the impediments which result from the state of war, as much as is compatible with the great object of the alliance of the sovereigns, the stability of the peace and tranquility of Europe; has directed me to make known to you that his intention is that your lordships should give orders that all hostilities against the coast of France cease immediately, and that his majesty's vessels suffer all French vessels, carrying the white flag to navigate freely.

(Signed)

BATHURST.

New-York, Sept. 25.

Yesterday arrived at this port, the elegant fast sailing pilot boat schr. Selby, Capt. Selby, in 33 days from Nantz, from whence she sailed on the 20th of August.

By this arrival we learn, verbally, that France was quiet—and that it was known there, that the Northumberland, 74, Admiral Cockburn, had sailed from England, with Napoleon Bonaparte, for St. Helena.

Paris, August 14.

Orders have been given that Marshal Ney be transferred to Paris. It is presumed that he will arrive in 4 or 5 days, and that the process against him will commence immediately.

Marshal Macdonald, duke of Tarente, took on the 1st instant the command of the army of the Loire. It constituted an effective force of about 45,000 men.

London, Aug. 11.—Lord Burgherst, has been appointed minister to the United States, and was to sail for New-York in the frigate Lacedemonian.

Torbay August 7.

Sailed, the Myrmidon, to the westward, with such of Bonaparte's suite, as are not to accompany him. The Tonnant, admiral Keith; Northumberland, admiral Cockburn; Bellerophon, and three frigates, are at anchor off Berry Head.

THE
AMERICAN MAGAZINE,
A MONTHLY MISCELLANY,

CONDUCTED BY

HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD, A. M.

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VOL. I.

We are well aware, that, at a time when cotemporary Biography occupies so large a portion of most periodical Works in this country—when it has become so common to publish Biographical memoirs of living Characters, we hazard at least a dubious experiment, by calling the attention of our Readers to the following sketch of one long since deceased. Nor do we know precisely that they would approve the selection we have made, if willing at all to change the precedent; but we have often heard enquiries from intelligent and worthy men, that led us to suppose there was still wanting something of the kind that we now offer to the Public. Under the influence of these impressions, we are exceedingly gratified in having obtained the following very interesting article, from a gentleman who is in every respect well qualified to do justice to his subject. If we mistake not, it will be perused with the highest interest. After a lapse of near 40 years, there are but few of the eye-witnesses remaining, to relate the trying scenes of our revolutionary struggles, and the war for Independence. Among the few who have lived to this day, there may be a due remembrance of the past—but let us ask, is not the present generation making too much haste to forget the trials and difficulties of that period, from which we reckon our National existence? Here, then, is a well-timed appeal—a powerful and pathetic incentive to retrospection, presented by a man who saw much of public service, and who has, with the independence of a veteran, very feelingly spoken of what he himself has seen.

It was our intention to accompany this, either with a Portrait of Baron Steuben, or a picture of the Monument erected to his memory in the German Reformed Church, in New-York, of which he was a member. Perhaps we may yet succeed in good time; but our measures that at first seemed to promise, have not been attended with the success that we expected. EDITOR.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LATE BARON STEUBEN.

I am not certain in what part of Germany, though I think it was in Suabia, that this respectable man was born. He was not a Prussian, for had I, said he, speaking of the strong passions of Frederick the Second, had I been born his subject, I should have been sent to Spandau, for daring to demand a dismissal from his service.

The Baron had been for some time in the family, and friendship of Prince Henry, the king's brother, of whom he never spoke but with the greatest tenderness and affection. In an unfortunate campaign of the seven years' war, the prince incurred the displeasure of his harsh brother ; who directed him to retire from the army, and ordered his aids-de-camp to their different corps, or put them upon such unpleasant duty as might make them feel the misfortune of belonging to a man who had dared to displease, perhaps to disobey him.

Steuben was sent into Silesia to recruit, equip, and discipline, within a certain period, a corps broken down by long and hard service. The pecuniary allowance for this object, was entirely inadequate ; but who, in the Prussian service, dared to murmur or remonstrate ! By the assistance of friends, funds were found, and the regiment complete, was marched to head quarters within the time. Pleased with the prompt performance of a duty, of the arduousness of which the king was well apprized, the Baron received his compliments, and in a little time after, the appointment of aid-de-camp to the monarch, with the charge of superintending the department of the quarter master general. It was undoubtedly an excellent part of the Prussian system :—the different departments, each having a particular person near the commander in chief, to whom every officer of the corps could, on all occasions, address himself ; and on whom at every moment, and for every kind of information relative to the branch of service with which the aid-de-camp was connected, the king could call. In this proud station he remained four years ; why it was abandoned I never knew, I never asked ; for though some anecdotes of the king's conduct, to his officers, which were heard with silent wonder, were from time to time told, there was a delicacy observed in speaking of that great man's faults, which marked the feelings of profound respect, with which he was remembered. When the death of his old master was announced, I saw a tear steal down the Baron's cheek.—Strong ties are broken when stern soldiers weep ! An American, who had been prisoner on Long Island, had said, a German officer had informed him that it was understood the king was jealous of the Baron's military reputation—it was mentioned ; jealous of me ! said the Baron, the fellow was a fool, a sot ! There can however, be no doubt, of the consideration in which the military knowledge of the Baron was held. When General Lincoln, then secretary for the department of war, was directed by Congress, to apply to the different powers of Europe for a transcript of their military codes, Monsr. de Hertshergh, prime minister of Prussia, answered that the instructions in question had never been published, or transcribed, except for the chiefs of the army, to whom alone they were confided ; adding, that he was surprized at the request, having understood that Baron Steuben, was in the service of the United States, who knew every thing relative to the Prussian military system, *au fond*.—Major Jackson, then of the war office, politely sent the Baron the above extract from the Prime Minister's letter. Whatever may

have been the cause, the Baron retired from Prussia, and entered into the service of the sovereign Prince, Charles of Baden; who gave him, with the order of fidelity, the command of his troops amounting to between three and four thousand men. Some time after he was elected, or, appointed Lieutenant General, of one of the circles of the Empire; a station, rather honorary than lucrative. The troops of the circles were militia, and the duty at that time little more than attending a periodical review. How changed, for many years, has been the situation and duties of those unfortunate people! God help them, they have drank deep of the cup of affliction!

The Baron's income from his military and ecclesiastical rank, for he was a canon of the church, amounted to the value of five hundred and eighty Louis d'ors per annum. By whom he was made a dignitary of the church, I have forgotten, but it is certain that not only the king of Prussia, but other continental sovereigns bestowed church livings on their officers; nor would Frederick, I presume, have felt any scruples of conscience, in assigning the whole revenues of the church militant, to troops, in whose weapons and tactics he had greater confidence, could the assignment have been effected without danger or disgrace. In a country where money was so valuable, that a chief cook, or a coachman could be hired for ten dollars and a suit of clothes, per annum; where many of the luxuries, and all the necessities of life, were proportionably cheap—twenty-four, or twenty-five hundred dollars a year, was a revenue which put its possessor much at his ease.—The Baron frequently passed his winters in Paris. In that city, in 1776, he first met Benjamin Franklin, our Ambassador at the court of Versailles, in the society of Count de Vergennes and the Prince de Montbarre, then secretary at war. Mr. Franklin, venerable in his appearance, high in reputation, and full of enthusiasm in the cause of his country, spoke with energy and with all the art of a politician, of the undaunted spirit of the people of the United States, of their ample means, and well founded hopes; of the glory to him who should effectually assist in laying the foundation of a great empire, and of the gratitude, honors and rewards which awaited the man, who should give instruction in the military art, to the brave but undisciplined army under Washington! The French ministers supported the arguments and joined in all the wishes of the philosophic negociator. It was undoubtedly the intention of the king, their master, they said, to declare himself as soon as circumstances would permit, the protector of this virtuous people, who had bravely taken arms against an haughty, and imperious nation, whose ambition went to the subjugation, not only of America but of Europe. That though the moment had not yet arrived, in which the king could openly espouse the cause of the Americans, steps were now taking secretly to supply them with arms, and there could be no doubt of his favorable regard to him, who, by teaching the most effectual mode of using them, would render essential service to an oppressed people, struggling against their tyrant. The glory attendant on a successful

achievement of this untried adventure, was painted in such glowing colours, (and who can colour like the French?) and the picture so often presented to view, that the Baron, without entering into, or demanding any stipulations with Messrs. Franklin or Dean, returned in the spring of 1777, to Germany, resigned his places, and their emoluments, came back to France, and in the autumn of the same year embarked for the United States, on board a ship, freighted, ostensibly by private persons, but in fact, by Louis the Sixteenth, with arms, clothing and munitions of war, and commanded by Captain Landais, a brave and experienced officer, who had sailed round the world with Monsr. de Bougainville, and who for the service he then performed to this nation, deserved a recompense, the benefits of which he might yet feel. I passed, not long since, this veteran in the street at New-York, and saw, with pain, that adverse gales seemed still to thwart his course.

The Baron landed in December, at Portsmouth, in New-Hampshire. The first time I saw him, was in the spring of 1778, at an assembly, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He had been received in the most distinguished manner by Congress, then in session at York, and was on his way to Head Quarters, at Valley Forge. His reputation had preceded him, and those who yet remember his graceful entry, and manner in a ball room, the novel splendor of his star, and its accompanying ornaments, can easily conceive the feelings of his countrymen, and of their assembled wives and daughters; they might indeed with honest Fluelling, have "thanked God, that they had no reason to be ashamed of him." The troops, in log huts, at Valley Forge, were in the most abject state of want; ill armed, worse fed, confined to their gloomy habitations, by sickness, or the want of raiment. The Baron, frequently afterwards declared, that no European army could have been kept together under such dreadful deprivations. What must have been his feelings, to see, as he passed with General Washington through the cantonment, the half naked figures, and to hear at every turn, the hollow, mournful cry, No pay! No provisions! No clothes! No rum! His heart sickened at the scene, and well it might; the misery was great! Beef from the pine barrens of North-Carolina, poor to a proverb, and yellow with, perhaps, the billious fever of the country, without the luxury of salt! Good Heaven! François, said an officer, as he saw black grains floating on the top of the camp kettle, Good Heaven! where did you get black pepper? it is not pepper, it is dried whortleberries, said the Frenchman; and if not those not any thing—O! 'twas wretched there, and almost every where throughout the war. I mean not with the citizens, though with them it was full bad. I knew a delegate in congress, who offered his watch to Mrs. House, in Philadelphia, as a pledge for payment of his board; she had the grace and goodness to refuse the offer, and to let the debt remain till he could pay it—that man of high worth and honor, of large possessions, and most respectable connections—Why should I hesitate to say, that man was James Duane? In such a time it was honest, it was virtuous to be poor. But I must quit this

theme, or it will lead me where I do not wish to go ; perhaps the present generation would have suffered more, with better bearing. The spring opened, partial supplies were received, and the Baron commenced his labors, as Inspector General ; and certainly it was a brave attempt. Without understanding a word of our language, to think of bringing men, born free, and joined together to preserve their freedom, into strict subjection ; to obey without a word, a look, the mandates of a master ! that master, once their equal, or possibly beneath them, in whatever might become a man ! It was a brave attempt, which nothing but virtue, or high raised hopes of glory could have supported. At the first parade, the troops neither understanding the command, nor how to follow in a chagement to which they had not been accustomed, even with the instructor at their head, were getting fast into confusion. At this moment, Captain, now Colonel Walker, then of the 2d New-York Regt., advanced from his platoon, and offered his assistance to translate the orders, and interpret to the troops. If, said the Baron, I had seen an angel from Heaven, I should not have been more rejoiced. The officers in the army who spoke English and French fluently, were indeed very few in number—how few were so capable of giving assistance to the Baron, in the formation of his system. Walker became, from that moment, his aid-de-camp, and remained to the end of the Baron's life, his dear and most worthy friend. From the commencement of instruction, no time, no pains, no fatigue was thought too great, in pursuit of this great object. Through the whole of each campaign, when troops were to manœuvre, and that was almost every day, the Baron rose at three o'clock ; while his servant dressed his hair, he smoked a single pipe, and drank one cup of coffee, was on horseback at sunrise, and with or without his suit galloped to the parade ; there was no waiting for a tardy aid-de-camp ; and those who followed, wished they had not slept ! Nor was there need of chiding ; when duty was neglected, or military etiquette infringed, the Baron's look was quite sufficient. It was a question, why in the first instance, our troops had been put to the performance of the great manœuvres ? I beg pardon for calling them *great*, but they were great to us, for we were ignorant. Bland's exercise, and Symmes' military guide, were almost the only poor and scanty sources from which we drew.¹ To the question it was answered, that in fact there was no time to spare in learning the minutæ—the troops must be prepared for instant combat ; that on a field of battle, how to display or fold a column, or to change a front, was of the first consequence ; that the business was to give the troops a relish for their trade, a confidence in their skill, in the performance of complicated evolutions. That even if time permitted, the officers copying the bad example, set them by the British, of referring all instruction to the sergeants, would feel themselves degraded, in attending to an awkward squad ; but the time will come, said he, when a better mode of thinking will prevail ; then we will attend to the A B C of the profession. This prophecy was amply fulfilled—a year or two afterwards, the

Baron said to me, do you see there, sir, your Colonel instructing that recruit? I thank God for that!

On the 17th of June, the battle of Monmouth was fought. Colonel Hamilton said that he had never known, or conceived the value of discipline, till that day. The Baron had no command in the line, for although Congress had given him the rank of Major General, the benefits expected to be received from his military acquirements were not to be confined to a single division of the army. Indeed there were other reasons; the troops were not more in number than the older Major Generals could command; and there was such an influx of Frenchmen, from the continent, and from the islands, all demanding; and many receiving high rank, that the American Officers began to be disgusted, and to murmur loudly at being commanded by foreigners. What the Baron had received, had been given without asking for, and he wisely left it to time and service to point out his station. The assistance he gave in forming the troops and in reconnoitering the enemy, in which service he narrowly escaped being taken, were acknowledged. His report to the Commander in Chief, respecting the situation of the enemy, and of the column commanded by General Lee, induced that gentleman, in his defence, to make some remarks of which the Baron thought it proper to ask an immediate explanation. It was given, and in the most satisfactory manner. General Lee, conscious of the part he had acted, with respect to General Washington, probably looked upon that gentleman's friends as his own enemies. He had been unfortunate, and believing that he had little favour to expect, he stood, as it were, at bay. He had an exalted opinion of British troops, with whom he had formerly served, and not great confidence in those he commanded—but whether their misbehaviour before the enemy was owing to a want in their commander of skill and energy, I recollect was, at the time, doubted. So soon as the army became stationary, the Inspector General introduced a system of inspection and police, which pervaded every branch of the service, within its purview, and by which millions were saved every campaign, after it was in operation. Honorable and worthy men, yet in existence, among whom are Judge Peters and Colonel Pickering, cannot but remember, to what a ruinous extent the spoil and waste of tents, arms, ammunition, accoutrements and camp equipage, was carried.—Both those gentlemen were then of the board of war, and have not forgotten the incalculable service rendered by the Baron, to our country. One of those respectable patriots, it was Judge Peters, said, not three months since, 'sir, the services of our friend, cannot be too highly estimated. I knew him well, and take him altogether, a better man did not exist.' To whom else, how few the number left—To whom can I appeal! The masters and the laborers, in that great work of independence, have passed away; and with them, how great a portion of the virtue and the talents of our country! With what strict scrutiny were the inspections made! I have seen the Baron and his assistants, seven long hours inspecting a brigade of three small regiments! Every man not present must be accounted for—if in camp, sick or well, they

were produced, or visited; every musket handled, searched, cartridge boxes opened, even the flints and cartridges counted; knapsacks unslung, and every article of clothing spread on the soldier's blanket, and tested by his little book, whether what he had received from the United States, within the year, was there, if not, to be accounted for. Hospitals, stores, laboratories, every place, and every thing, was open to inspection, and inspected: and what officer's mind was at ease, if losses or expenditures, could not, on the day of searching, be fully and fairly accounted for! The inspections were every month, and wonderful was the effect, not only with regard to economy, but in creating a spirit of emulation between different corps. I have known the subalterns of a regiment, appropriate one of their two rations to the bettering the appearance of their men; but this was at a later period of the war, when supplies and payments were more ample and more regular. It was, I think, in the winter of 1778—9 that the Baron formed and published his regulations. The difficulties he encountered in carrying on that work, were indeed great. The bookstores were not then filled with military authors and compilers. All he set down, was drawn from his own recollections of the Prussian code and service; these to be arranged in order, the language in which they were written to be translated into English, and by those not conversant with military evolutions, scarcely with military phrase. To sketch, re-sketch the plates, and fit them for the engraver—the engraver, the paper, the types and printer, with difficulty to be found. None but those who lived in those dark days of poverty and dearth of every thing, can think a thousandth part of all the penury with which we were surrounded. The *Blue Book* at last appeared, and was studied; and except the bible, was held in the highest estimation. 1779 and 1780, passed, as well as I recollect, in attending to the discipline of the army, and without any occurrence of greater moment, in which the Baron was engaged. The flight of Arnold, which was announced in whispers, at midnight, and the trial and execution of Major Andre, gave birth to strong, but very different feelings in his breast. With the inevitable fate of the unfortunate British Adjutant General, he was exceedingly affected. It is not possible, said he, to save him. He put us to no proof, but in an open manly manner, confessed every thing but a premeditated design to deceive. Would to God, the wretch who drew him to his death, could have suffered in his place! In the autumn of 1780, the Baron was ordered to the southward. General Gates had been defeated, and his force dispersed. The southern states were supposed to be in the greatest danger, and that the war, in that country, could be committed to no one with more propriety than to General Greene. There was full time, during the journey to mature the plan of operation. Baron Steuben was left in Virginia, to gather whatever of men or means might possibly be gathered, to form the troops, and at all risk of clamour or dissatisfaction of the Virginians, to disfurnish their state, for the moment, in the hope of securing its ultimate safety.

(To be concluded in our next.)

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

IN this country, where the sea of liberty is so accessible to all the impulses of tempestuous freedom, there are few individuals who have not seen something of the manner in which the agitations of its waves affect the various individuals who compose the *acting members* of political communities. We have all seen enough of this, to have fixed ideas of the character of those men whose course is always with the tempest, when they can no longer carry sail to the storm. The man who turns with the times, and changes his politics as the preponderances change, is regarded, by us, as a creature not to be trusted—he is despised by every honest man. We set a mark upon him, which is not easily removed.

These reflections have been occasioned by a recent perusal of some files of the *Moniteur*, published at Paris in 1804—5, &c., during the reign of the late Emperor of France. At this remoteness of time, when so many of the minor events of that period had been forgotten, it is really interesting to look over these papers. The mere plan of the ceremonial of the coronation of Bonaparte, as Emperor of France, occupies three entire *Moniteurs*. But what more particularly excites my attention, is the names of the persons who then figured away in the Imperial Court, and the parts assigned to each in the Imperial Drama. To trace each of those personages through all the subsequent events, is not my purpose; but it may be well worth while for every one of your readers, to give to this subject a little attention. The Duke of Otranto, (then *Fouche*), was particularly complimented on that occasion, for his excellent organization and disposition of the Police of Paris. Let us recollect who is *Fouche*, and who and what he has been, and now is? Talleyrand, Bernadotte, Berthier, Murat, and a hundred others may be recollected; and the history of these men may be full of instruction.

But the purpose of this paper, is to call to the recollection of your readers the result of their own knowledge of men in this country, who have been the time-and-tide servers of parties—and to fix, indelibly in their minds, the sentiments of disgust which such conduct has begotten, toward the proper objects. The time-serving policy that we have had occasion to reprobate in this country, has only been produced by a kind of small game, in the play of parties:—a mere strife for political power, without bloodshed, and, as yet, without inflicting any deadly wounds on the Constitution. In France, this description of men have played for the liberties of 20,000,000 of people; and in 20 years, have effected near 20 Revolutions, by which many millions of human beings have lost their lives! Their game has extended its influence over all Europe, and has been the means of unmaking, making, and unmaking again more kings and emperors, great and small, than so many ages could have produced, had not these time-servers been permitted to control the affairs of the world;—

as they really have done, mortifying as the observation may seem. With our experience, what must we think of the men who have thus acted? These things ought to impress a lesson on the mind of every man who prizes the liberty he still enjoys;—and this lesson should be held dear to his recollections, for the good of himself, his posterity, his country, and the whole world of mankind. It was by the aid of men of this description that a successful general stole upon the hearts of the French, seized the Imperial purple, enslaved 40,000,000 of people, and dragged the flower of their youth after him to perish in ‘the frightful climes’ of Russia, by which his own power was subverted. The present destination of that man, may be some consolation to many at this day.—But for what have so many died miserably?—what great good exists to compensate for so many sacrifices? I have endeavoured, in vain, to find some, for I would fain be satisfied that for so much evil, some good exists, by way of atonement. Where is it?—save in the gratification of a very few, at the expense of some other few, whose conflicting interests have drenched the world in blood? But the prospect is sickening to humanity, and forbidding to reason. Let us derive from the contemplation whatever of instruction it may afford, that we may long cherish a remembrance of that watchful vigilance over the affairs of our own country, which the occasion and the lesson so imperiously enjoin upon us.

Had I not been in France during several years of the most stormy period of its commotions and revolutions, I could not have felt those sentiments of horror that I now feel, at a retrospection of its distresses and sacrifices:—for, out of France, I had never known the one half. Nor could I, being in any other country, have seen the darkest side of the human character, so fully developed, so indelibly portrayed. It was a country, and an age of revolutions, which gave to those intriguers, and time-servers, and scene-shifters, full and constant occupation. Need I add, then, that those scenes have increased my dislike of a character—of certain descriptions of people, to be found in all countries? Having known ***, and **, and many others of those in France, who have been so long the successful plotters of events, and the turn-coats and panders of power, I have no new lessons to learn respecting man in my native country. Give to America the crowded population that France had, with a public mind no more enlightened; give her a Paris in its centre, a French Government, and a French Revolution—that is, a similar Revolution—and America, and Americans, would do all of evil that France and Frenchmen have done. I might go on to observe in this way; but however faithful and just the picture and the conclusions, few would realize them, and many would scoff the writer and his writing. Faction would still second faction, and each in its turn would have its day. Men will never be persuaded against popular opinion;—or at least they never have been—and the remembrance of this historical fact, to a reflecting, reasoning people, blest with as much liberty as man can enjoy in a so-

cial state, would be worth more than a thousand volumes of the fine-spun theories of political romance. Had France not had a government of the people, the people could not have been enslaved by their own consent; and her immense population had never been chained to the car of her late Imperial despot, to aid in the subjugation of the world!

And now, Sir, I have a paradox, of all others the most paradoxical, to propose to you. How can it have happened, that in this country, where I drew the breath of my nativity, and imbibed the sentiments of a Republican from the milk of my mother; where I learnt from the example, and the scars, and the tales of our country's wrongs, related by a veteran father, to love the Republic with my whole heart;—how can it have happened, I say, that for these *sins*, or for such sentiments as you have above, I should have been proscribed by the men of this day, as a foe to my country? Is it the work of that spirit of denunciation, whose final catastrophe I have witnessed in a foreign country, shedding rivers of blood?—pause then, my countrymen—for Heaven's sake beware! Sport not thus with your liberties, nor indulge your angry and jealous passions in denunciation and proscription;—it is a darling child of democracy which you are cherishing; playful in youth, but a giant, terrible and fatal to Republics in old age.

AMERICANUS.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

IT so happened, lately, that in a select party of young ladies, some questions arose in the course of the afternoon, about the proper pronunciation of the name St. Helena—and while this was under discussion, the name of Cowper, the poet, was also made the subject of critical examination. It is almost needless to say that though we did not go deeply into the lore of antiquity, nor finally settle the points of discussion, there was a pretty good display of learning among us. As we could not agree, and as a select number of young gentlemen were to join our party in the evening, it was agreed that the disputed points should be referred to them for decision. We had been principally divided in opinion about placing the accent on Helena—some calling it Hei'ena, and some Hele'na,—or, lest you should not understand my marks, some placing the accent on the first, and some on the second syllable; making it Hel'-e-na, and Hel-e'-na. When we came to agitate the question concerning the name of Cowper, there was as wide a difference as in the case above noticed. While one admired 'the Task' of Cowper, another, avoiding the apparent vulgarity of the sound, insisted that it was Cooper's 'Task,' which she admired; and if the lady could show any good authority for *Cowing* the name of her favorite author, she would immediately abandon her own opinion, though she should be extremely sorry to be obliged to do so. Thus the matter stood at 10, when our Beaus joined the party;—and had *their* reasons been conclusive, either on the one side or the other, I am sure I should not

have troubled you with these enquiries. After all I heard that evening about analogy, with a good deal of Greek, and grammar, I am not yet satisfied. Pray, Sir, are there no rules, fixed, and well understood, by which to settle points of such importance? Is there no standard, for reference, in these cases? The first of these names is now spoken many hundred times every day, in the United States—and a great many of the speakers aim at strict correctness, which is always desirable. Perhaps some of your Correspondents may do me the favor to notice these cases, and I am sure that by doing so they may render a service to many, besides

JULIA.

MR. SPAFFORD—SIR,

If your fair correspondent, JULIA, will examine Walker's 'Key to the Classical Pronunciation of Greek, Latin, and Scripture Proper Names,' pages 88, and 168, [Boston, 1808, 8vo.] she will find the authority of that writer for placing the accent of Hel'ena on the antepenultimate, or the first syllable.

The true pronunciation of *Cowper*, may be settled, both by analogy and by popular usage, to be the natural sound of the dipthong ou, which rhymes with now, &c. The very few exceptions, in our language, to this rule, have never been formally regarded by Grammarians. The British have a poet of the name of Cooper, whose name, it is believed, is never confounded with that of the author of the *Task*, by the usage of the learned in Britain.

JULIUS.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

I am so much gratified with the result of an experiment I have been making on the construction of candles, that I send a brief notice of it for your Magazine. Whether the thought is new or old to the public, I know not, but to me it was lately new, that candles would give more light if a small tube could be fixed within the wick, extending from one end of the candle to the other, through which there should be a constant stream of air to supply the flame in the interior part, where it is usually less bright and radiant than at the exterior. I tried the thought, and the result seems to be productive of an advantage that is worthy of attention. A small straw of rye or oats, is readily placed in the centre of the wick, the ends of which may be stopped by being dipped in some beeswax and bay-berry tallow, to prevent the cavity being filled with tallow in the mould, or in the dipping. Clipping the lower end opens the straw, which is easily opened at the upper end, by clipping off a little piece: and on being lighted, the extra labour is not regretted. Perhaps few people would be disposed to adopt an alteration that required even this little additional expense, in a matter so familiar and simple as that of making candles; but I can assure you that the advantage of doing it is very obvious on trial, and must be far greater than most people would readily imagine. And at least, the experi-

ment is a brilliant one; which reflects as much light on philosophy as any other philosophism of the age. It is therefore worthy of the attention of men of scientific research, and would afford a pretty evening's employment for the chemical and philosophical virtuoso.

I have dipped some of my straws in melted beeswax, till each one became a little miniature of a candle, and then placed it in the wick as before directed, when I have produced a light exceeding any other I ever saw from a candle. Every part of the flame seemed to possess a brighter hue, indicating a more perfect combustion, and it afforded a greater radiance of light.

It must be observed, however, that to render the combustion as perfect as may be, and of course to derive the greatest possible advantage from it, the wick and the tallow must be duly proportioned:—that the one may be consumed just as fast as the other. Were this the case, and the tallow good, a candle would very rarely want snuffing—while the flame, burning with near the same color next the wick as on the outside, would give a greater quantity of light from a given quantity of tallow and wick-yarn. I have sought to obtain this due proportion, and I might claim some advantage to my candles from having effected it. But this is a matter about which the public take little concern, since every body knows how to make candles, and whether they are made in the best possible manner or not, they are at least made just as they have been made during a great many past years. Suppose I could show that a saving of 5 or 10 per cent. could be made in the annual expense of all the candles consumed in the United States, it would then be every body's business, and nobody would attend to it, save a few of those singular beings who are always employing their time upon trifling things, the object of popular contempt or private commiseration. Woe be to that man who shall innovate upon the established usages and habits of many men, however great the gain. A man would as soon consult his dictionary for the meaning of the familiar, short words of his mother-tongue, known, perfectly, from usage, since he first learned to lisp them in his infancy, as to direct his house-keeper or his candle-maker in the *art* of making candles!

Sure, then, that with the many, I lose this labor, I turn from the cheerless prospect to you, Mr. Editor—for of you I am certain. Already I see your grave matter-of-fact reasonings laid aside, while, in pursuit of my hint, your *classick* hands are bedaubed with tallow and wax!

Good speed to you, Sir, and success to all your speculations, without regard to the colour of the cover in which they may be done up, or to the butterfly insects that flit round the windows of your laboratory, attracted by the light of *my* candles. Let the experiments be fairly tried, and I am fully persuaded the result will justify my high expectations.

G.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

I have, in my possession, the Journal of a distinguished American Traveller, who spent many years in Europe, travelling in France, Holland, Germany, Spain, Italy, and England, and who returned to America, in 1784. This Journal abounds with minute memoranda, and if it will contribute to your aid in furnishing a monthly fare for your readers, it is at your service. Should you approve my plan, I will probably furnish you with some extracts, monthly, with which to interlard your valuable Miscellany, in which I wish to see a large portion of original matter, various of course, for various tastes. Your readers here will doubtless be gratified to see such extracts from this Journal as I propose to send you, preserved in your Work. And if your neighbours are pleased with the long tale of the Old Man of Bern, let them accord to us an indulgence demanded by partialities equally local. The old man who kept the Journal in my hands, is endeared to us by many grateful recollections of esteem, and by a remembrance of the substantial benefits which we have derived from his patriotism and an ardent zeal in the cause of his country.

October, 1815.

BERKSHIRE.

Sunday, 3d October, 1784.—I arrived in Rhode Island, after an absence of nearly six years from my native soil. Standing to the N. E. on that morning—the cry of land! land! from the mast head, the most grateful word a poor landsman can hear, cheered our delighted hearts.* I cannot call to mind ever passing a more agreeable day—the weather was fine—the wind favorable—our ship in full dress with all her sails spread—and sailing along with a moderate breeze, parallel with the coast of Long Island on our left;—we then speedily passed Block Island, and Point Judith, and directly found ourselves in the midst of the pleasant Islands in Naraganset Bay.

Here I must not omit to mention the impression every object made on my mind, as we drew on the coast of beloved America, the only free country on earth. Several years' absence, posting about in the different parts of Europe, had nearly obliterated from my recollection the face of my native country, and familiarized me with those of Europe;—it is probable therefore, I met every object with the eyes of an European.—A clear blue sky—the fields of corn—wooden houses—and woods interspersed changed the scene, and led me into deep meditation, drawing in my mind a comparative view of America, in its present state, with that of Europe, and the wonderful progress it had made from a state of nature within two centuries.

We dropped anchor in the evening, abreast of Warwick Neck. Our Captain being anxious to transmit his packet of letters to his owners in Providence, I volunteered my services, and landed upon the Neck at 11 o'clock. The moment I jumped out the boat; and stood erect on American soil, I turned my face eastward, and gave an eternal adieu to Europe, and my numerous acquaintances in its various parts: the recollection of many of which I shall cherish to the close of life with delight.

* We had strong indications for two days previous, that we were drawing on to a friendly coast—the smell of land—hovering of birds over our mast—and the change of the colour of the water.

France, old France, and its happy sons—who know nothing of English phlegm—although deprived of liberty, and all its Godlike attributes, yet they have found the secret of being the happiest people in the world.

At this late hour of the night, I entered a spacious farm-yard, with my three sailors;—being assailed by dogs, it aroused the family, as we approached the door of a decent farm house, and knocking, we were directed “*Walk.*” The door being on the latch, we entered without ceremony, and discovered by an occasional flash of light, a venerable farmer in his night shirt, blowing up a light, and surveying us earnestly as the candle caught the flame. Sit down, sit down, my friends; where are you from? From London—just arrived—and in pursuit of a horse. It is too late—you are welcome to a bed with us: concluding to accept his hospitable offer, I dispatched my sailors, and lighting a pipe, puffed in concert with this independent farmer, whose curiosity led him to a thousand queries as to Europe, our voyage, &c.: his wife, lying in the corner of the kitchen, soon joined in our chat. The old man soon conducted me to a spacious chamber, decently furnished, a clean bed, and night cap, duly adjusted. Good God, said I, in reposing my head on the pillow, such, O Father of all mercies, are thy blessings bestowed on an independent American farmer, although the country is yet reeking in the mingled blood of Englishmen and Americans. These were my last pleasing reflections—and at the dawn of day all was in motion below, and about the house. I rose, and from three chamber windows, I contemplated an excellent farm in fine order, with every appearance of independent ease and abundance. I soon took my hospitable host by the hand in the farm yard, and was expressing to him in glowing language, the strong effusions of my mind—but alas! to my utter astonishment, he fetched a deep sigh, and I observed an air of anxiety, and discontent depicted on his countenance. Ah! says he, to be sure I have got a good farm, well stocked, and thank heaven, I don’t owe a cent to any man, but these confounded taxes are enough to ruin a poor farmer.

Not knowing the extent of his burthens, although every appearance indicated they could not be very serious, pray Sir, says I, how much tax do you pay in a year? About \$30, and before the war my tax did not exceed 3 or 4 dollars a year.

And is it possible, says I, that such a small tax can disturb a moment’s repose? You are now enjoying the blessings of liberty and independence for less than thirty dollars a year, and from all appearance, in a few years it will dwindle down to the old mark.

You know not, my friend, says I, how to prize your blessings. Can you have already forgotten the universal language in our revolutionary war? “*I will freely sacrifice one half of my property to gain our independence, and secure the rest.*” I wish it were possible for every farmer in America to have gone over the ground I have measured in Europe, these last five years,

and to have witnessed the misery and wretchedness I have seen among the farmers in that unfortunate portion of the globe, and the corruption and depravity among the higher classes. They would all gladly hasten back, kiss the American soil, and call it truly blessed, and forever thereafter hold their peace in pious gratitude to the great fountain of all good. I was gratified to observe my morning's lecture evidently remove the mist of anxiety which had obscured an intelligent countenance, and I trust and hope its effects will be salutary and lasting. Would to God I could at that moment have been within hearing of every discontented farmer in the United States of America.

THE ALBANY WATER WORKS.

The importance of a constant and certain supply of pure and wholesome water, to the inhabitants of populous towns, can hardly be duly appreciated, and there is little danger that it should ever be overrated. And when it is considered that the clayey soils of the river-hills, and the alluvial flats on which this city is built, afford very little good water by digging in any part, and none that can be called pure and soft; the importance of a competent supply of that of a good quality may be duly appreciated. We are well aware that by far the largest portion of our readers have no immediate interest in being informed of the extent of the recent improvements, and the laudable enterprize of a Company for supplying this city with water. And yet the magnitude of the works, and the novel facts connected with their execution, claim at least all the attention that we are disposed to bestow upon them.

The city of Albany is now supplied with water by an *IRON CONDUIT* of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, capable of delivering 400,000 gallons daily, into a Reservoir of hewn stone of that capacity, situated on a commanding elevation that overlooks the principal part of the town. This aqueduct is fed by a single spring, of a cool and uniform temperature; and there are about eight miles of wooden pipes or aqueducts, now laid, that extend the circulation from the Reservoir through all the principal streets, from which lateral ones conduct the water into the houses. It is intended to lay all these in cast iron. The main aqueduct, of iron, has a bore of $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, and it is thought that the method of connecting the pipes, or *joints*, as they are called, very successfully devised by the Superintendent of the Company, is an improvement on any of the modes hitherto known. It is done by inserting the pipes into each other, and the joint is made perfectly tight by a rim of soft lead. Some curious and interesting facts, concerning the expansive power of heat on these iron pipes, which have resulted from experience in this enterprize, ought to be generally known, and especially to all those who may have an immediate interest in knowing them.

These works have cost the Company the whole amount of their capital, which is 80,000 dollars. The main aqueduct from the spring to the city, was first laid in wood, large yellow pine logs, in 1802; and these were so far decayed in 1813, as to threaten a failure in the supply of water, and a total loss to the Company of all their advances, which had amounted to 40,000 dollars—at that time the whole amount of capital that was authorized by law. On application to the Legislature, a law was passed augmenting the capital to 80,000 dollars, with which the late improvements have been effected. The daily consumption of water now, is computed at about 200,000 gallons, leaving a surplus of one half the supply for the future increase of consumption, and an abundant provision in every part of the town for extinguishing fires. With these heavy expenditures, the Company now calculate on having secured a permanency of supply for many years to come, perhaps for some centuries. The works are all constructed in the best manner, with a commendable liberality of expense.

Having carefully observed the progress of this undertaking throughout, and the ingenuity and great carefulness of Elisha Putnam, the Superintendent, in conducting every part, we have great pleasure in thus noticing his merits, while we make them known to others who may have an interest in deriving a benefit from his skill and experience. It may probably be a fair calculation to suppose that from 25,000 to 30,000 dollars might have been saved, from the expense of this undertaking, had the capital all been properly applied in the first instance, and with the advantages of the knowledge and experience at present possessed by the Company.

The following scale of prices, showing the rates at which the water is sold to families, manufactories, &c. may be useful to our Readers, as affording comparative data of expense, interesting to the inhabitants of other towns.

Albany, October, 1815.

EDITOR.

RATES FOR THE USE OF THE WATER.

RATES FOR THE USE OF THE WATER.			\$ 16 pr. ann.
1st Class Dwelling Houses—	Every 3 story double House,	}	14
2d do. do.	Every 3 story House, with three windows in front on the lower floor, or two front rooms with an L,		
3d do. do.	Every 3 story single House and 2 story double House,		
4th do. do.	Every 2 story House with two front rooms and an L,		
5th do. do.	Every 2 story single House (of 2 rooms on first floor) of brick, or fronted with brick,		
6th do. do.	Every other dwelling House of whatever description,	}	8
Every additional family in any House, to pay	- - - - -		
If more than one additional family in any house, each such additional family to pay	- - - - -		2
Every Store, or Store House, not otherwise rated,	- - - - -		6
<i>Rates for the use of Water in Erecting Buildings.</i>			
1st and 2d Classes,	\$ 25	Every Grocery Store in a House occupied by a family taking the Water,	4
3d, do. - - -	20	Every Distillery,	100
4th, do. - - -	15	Every Tannery,	70
5th and 6th do. - - -	10	Every Morocco Factory,	50
Every Store or Store House, of 3 stories or more,	15	1st Class of Breweries,	60
Every Store or Store House, of 2 stories,	10	2d. do. do. - - -	45
<i>In addition to the foregoing Rates on Houses,</i>		3d. do. do. - - -	30
1st Class Taverns, to pay	\$ 10	Every Dyer,	15
2d, do. - - -	8	Every Leather Dresser,	20
3d, do. - - -	6	Every Printing Office,	15
Every Boarding House, from 6 to 2	2	Every Bakery,	6
		Every Blacksmith,	6
		Every Hatter,	12
		Every Stone Cutter,	12

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

Albany, October 26th, 1815.

MR. EDITOR—By inserting the following Question in your interesting and justly admired Miscellany, you will, I have no doubt, afford some amusement to the sons and friends of Science throughout the state.

Respectfully, J. B.

QUESTION.

Required the number of miles that an observer should be elevated in the zenith, at the southeast corner of the Capitol, at Albany, in order to see the Sun's upper limb three hours before he shall have made his appearance in the horizon of the place of observation?

Required, also, a mathematical demonstration, independent of parallax and refraction?

*Letter from Dr. Fothergill, to a gentleman in Massachusetts.**Dated, London, 10 Mo. 20, 1780.*

RESPECTED FRIEND,

THE difficulty of conveying a letter safely, has been the principal cause of my silence, and not a disregard either to the writer, or the obliging and informing letters, which at three different times I have received from him. I have endeavored faithfully to make use of the very sensible hints they contained, as far as they lay in my power, for the good of both countries; but in vain. Neither advice, information, nor experience make any impression. The cause of this infatuation was not a common one, and its effects may turn to our humiliation and amendment, when providence may see meet to turn our hearts to wisdom. It will not, I think, be long in our power to molest you. It is not only France and Spain that are in alliance with you, but most of the states of Europe; they wish to share your commerce; and, at the same time, they wish to humble the pride of this country, whose insolence and haughtiness has created us many, many enemies.

I sometimes flatter myself that there may be at the bottom of this confederacy, a plan highly useful and advantageous to humanity, and yet when I reflect how far short of perfect civilization the foremost powers of Europe are, I almost despair of it. Their union in one point, may produce union in another; and if the powers of Europe and America could form a College of Justice, to which the sovereigns should appeal in all cases, and be bound to obey, what an honour to christianity, and what a saving of blood and treasure! The temple of Janus might then probably be shut; and may it be shut for ever!

I have perused your frame of government with satisfaction. It approaches nearer perfection than any I believe yet in being; and may those who framed it be blessed, and their posterity for ever happy!

The general ignorance that prevails here, of your abilities, intentions, and resources, is inoonceivable. I often tell a story that my late deceased friend, Dr. Russell, used to relate. He was one morning at the bashaw's divan, at Aleppo, when a countryman brought an antelope, which he said he had just caught, as a present; the bashaw enquired if it were male or female: he stooped down to ask one of the officers, which he would have it to be? Resolved to say what was pleasing, though the falsehood might have been detected in a moment. Just so are our superiors too often treated. People tell them what they wish to hear, and thus become the worst of enemies to both sides. And after such kinds of falsehoods have been successfully practised for a time, and at length have been found like the "baseless fabric of a vision," all confidence in any set of men is given up. The passions then take the lead—the effects have been, are, and ever will be felt, beyond what it was possible for the authors of these calamities ever to comprehend.

I have endeavored, as far as it was in my power, to give the best information I could, to those within my reach, but it was talking to the winds: experience itself will not convince them. But it will not be long that we shall do what we please; we must submit to laws given us by others. But I trust it will be for our good; it will make many think. We are as dissipated, as full of schemes for promoting diversions, as regardless of every thing serious as if we were in high prosperity. War drains off multitudes, manufacturers especially; those who are left, have consequently more chance of employment; they are content with their lot, and think every thing goes on as well as usual; so a general deception prevails from the highest to the lowest; and to doubt of your subjugation, is heresy with many.

I most seriously wish that the calamities which have befallen you, or may yet be permitted to befall you, may have the proper effect of humbling your minds, and preserving you greatly dependent on that invisible arm which has delivered those who honestly trust in it, in all ages. Little did I expect to see the present disunion, rather disjunction; but so it has been wisely permitted to happen. We were growing too great, powerful, proud and

wicked; the sources are gradually diminishing, and we are kindly compelled by force, to be less abandoned than we wished to be.

Our new parliament will meet ere long, and follow the steps exactly of the preceding. The minority in general, are far from being better men, in the true sense of the word, in my opinion, than their opponents. No two are agreed exactly in the same opinion; and I am afraid there are few amongst them, who would speak theirs, even in light matters, to another, were it to save a state from ruin. I give up all hopes of recovery by any human means. We deserve chastisement, and must feel it. The affair of Charleston has changed our tone a little, and we trust to the like good fortune at last. You are supine, negligent, and incautious; most of your losses have originated from this quarter, and nothing will teach you circumspection. The moment you lose sight of immediate destruction, you are asleep.

I wish you could banish oaths entirely. They are an indignity to truth. The dissenters objected to swearing as well as we. Allowing our affirmation is a favor, we own. But, why should it not be extended to all? Let us increase the consequence and dignity of simple truth. Guard yourselves from impositions, as much as you can; but let it not be at the expense of the sacred name. I wish, likewise, we could all become so far christians as to forbear fighting. It is the remains of Gothic savageness, unsubdued by the spirit of the gospel. It knows nothing of the immortal soul, or its state in futurity; it is merely the beast that fights, not the man. But the world is not yet ripe for such doctrines. A socratic teacher amongst us, arguing on this subject, asks, if it would not be better for mankind in general, if there were no wars? Yes, certainly. We are assured that such a time is to come, and whether is it more probable that this disposition shall become general at once, or begin amongst a few, spread further by degrees, and at length become universal? Ought not those few, then, who think in their consciences that to them war is unlawful, to abstain from fighting? most certainly. This we think a good foundation for us to stand upon, without condemning others who are not to be persuaded. Have as much tenderness to such a people as you can. They are the best friends of humanity.

There is nothing tends so much to keep alive the spirit of war, as our education. We take part in all the spirit of heroism displayed with so much elegance by the Greek and Roman historians, till the spirit of christianity, meek, humble, patient, forgiving, is obliterated from our minds. A woeful exchange for a system replete with good will to all men! I am not censuring others, I am pleading for ourselves, and most fervently wish the day may be fast advancing, when wars will be no more. I am the brother of all mankind. I know I am writing to a gentleman who has charity enough to enter fully into my sentiments, and to wish there was not a classic extant, capable of producing, cherishing, or confirming such sentiments.

I am obliged to write in haste, though the length of this may afford suspicion that my time is not always employed to the best purposes. But as I have conceived a very favorable opinion of my very sensible correspondent, I could wish to give him every proof of it in my power.

With fervent wishes for universal peace, the happiness of America, and of every individual in it, that endeavors to promote its real interest, piety and virtue, I am to all such a very cordial friend.

J. FOTHERGILL.

**JUDGE FLETCHER'S ADDRESS TO THE GRAND JURY OF
WEXFORD, IRELAND.**

(Concluded from p. 164.)

Gentlemen, I will tell you what those absentees ought particularly to do—they ought to promote the establishment of houses of refuge, houses of industry, school-houses, and set the example upon their own estates, of building decent cottages, so that the Irish peasantry may have, at least, the comforts of an "English sow;" for an English farmer would refuse to eat

the flesh of a hog, so lodged and fed as an Irish peasant is. Are the farms of an English landholder out of lease, or his cottages in a state of dilapidation? he rebuilds every one of them for his tenants, or he covenants to supply them with materials for the purpose. But how are matters conducted in this country? Why, if there is a house likely to fall into ruins, upon an expiring lease, the new rack-rent-tenant must rebuild it himself: and can you wonder if your plantations are visited for the purpose, or if your young trees are turned into plough-handles, or roofs for their cabins? They are more than Egyptian task masters, who call for bricks without furnishing a supply of straw!

I do not propose that you should expect any immediate amendment or public benefit from the plans suggested for the education of the poor. It is in vain to flatter yourselves that you can improve their minds if you neglect their bodies. Where have you ever heard of a people desirous of education; who had not clothes to cover them, or bread to eat? I have never known that any people, under such circumstances, had any appetite for moral instruction.

Gentlemen, I had an opportunity of urging some of these topics upon the attention of a distinguished personage—I mean Lord Redesdale, who filled the high office of Lord Chancellor here some years ago. He was pleased to require my opinion of the state of the country; I averred, that I thought it was as tranquil as ever it had been; but I did ask his permission to suggest certain measures, which, in my opinion, would go very far towards allaying the discontents of the people. One of those measures was a reform of the magistracy in Ireland—another was a commutation of tythes, if it could be satisfactorily effected—a third was, the suppression of the home consumption of whiskey, and the substitution of a wholesome malt liquor in its stead. I requested his Lordship to recollect, that Hogarth's print of "Gin-alley," is an unerring witness to testify what the English people would now be, if they had nothing but a pernicious spiritous liquor to drink. His Lordship was pleased to lend a courteous attention to these opinions—and I do believe, that his own natural judgment and good inclination would have prompted him to measures beneficial to Ireland and honourable to his fame.

Gentlemen, this subject brings me to a consideration of the magistracy of the country. Of these I must say, that some are over zealous—others too supine: distracted into parties, they are too often governed by their private passions, to the disgrace of public justice, and the frequent disturbance of the country.

Here let me solicit your particular attention to some of the grievous mischiefs, flowing from the misconduct of certain magistrates. One is occasioned by an excessive eagerness to crowd the gaols with prisoners, and to swell the calendars with crimes. Hence the amazing disproportion between the number of the committals and of the convictions, between accusation and evidence, between hasty suspicion and actual guilt. Committals have been too frequently made out (in other counties) upon light and trivial grounds, without reflecting upon the evil consequences of wresting a peasant (probably innocent) from the bosom of his family—immuring him for weeks or months in a noisome gaol, amongst vicious companions. He is afterwards acquitted or not persecuted; and returns a lost man, in health and morals, to his ruined and beggared family. This is a hideous, but common picture.

There are parts of Ireland, where, from the absence of the gentlemen of the county, a race of magistrates has sprung up, who ought never to have borne the King's commission. The vast powers entrusted to those officers call for an upright, zealous and conscientious discharge of their duty.

Gentlemen, as to tythes, they are generally complained of as a great grievance. Far be it from me to say, that tythes are not due to the clergy. By the law of the land, they have as good a title to their tythes as any of you have to your estates; and, I am convinced, that the clergyman does not, in any instance, exact what he is strictly entitled to. But this mode

of assessment has been much complained of; and it is particularly felt in this country, because the Catholic receives no spiritual comfort from his Protestant rector; he knows him only through the tythe proctor, and he has, moreover, his own pastor to pay. This is the reason why he thinks it a grievance; and I must admit, that although the clergyman does not receive all that he is entitled to, and although it may not be a grievance in another country, yet the tythe system is a painful system for Ireland.

Gentlemen, you have in your power another remedy for public commotions; I allude to the assessment of the presentment money upon your country. It seems that the sum of 9000*l.* is now demanded to be levied; whether this sum is, or is not, an exorbitant one, for this county, I know not. It is a tax, of which you will impose the greater part, or, perhaps, the whole, upon your county—and it falls wholly upon the occupying tenants or farmers; pray keep this circumstance constantly in your minds—the benefit of this tax is your own. By its operation, you have your farms well divided and improved,—good roads made round your estates—useful bridges and walls erected; indeed, I have known counties which have been parcelled out to undertakers by baronies, and where no man could get a job without the consent of the baronial undertaker—they met and commuted—and it was thus agreed—“I give you your job here, and you give me my job there.” I may be asked, why do I mention these things? The grand jury know them very well—but then they ought to be concealed. Miserable infatuated nation! These things are not concealed; there is not a grand jury job in the country which is not known and commented upon by the peasantry. Every mischief, and every enormity I have this day stated, is as thoroughly well known to the peasantry as to the gentry throughout Ireland. The affected apprehension of exciting and exasperating them, by a reprobation of those enormities, is puerile and contemptible. It cannot do mischief—it cannot add to the poignancy of their feelings—it may allay or sooth them—already those exactions are the subject of discussion, and of minute scrutiny, in every cabin; what are the consequences? Dreadful heart-burnings and deep murmurs. The visit of the constable who collects the cess, is a day of general mourning, and distress, and tribulation. I spoke freely of these things to the grand jury of the county of Tipperary;—what was the beneficial result? The foreman (Mr. Bagwell) came forward soon afterwards from the grand jury-room, and stated publicly in court, that, in consequence of my charge, he and his fellow-jurors had thrown out applications for presentments to the amount of 9000*l.* These may be presumed to be jobs, under pretence of building walls and bridges, filling hollows, lowering hills, &c. Here, indeed, was some good done by this sudden impulse of economy—here were the fruits of a free and candid exhortation before the public eye.

Perhaps the commission of the peace, in every county in the kingdom, should be examined. During a long war, in seasons of popular commotion, under chief governors (all acting, unquestionably, with good intentions, but upon various principles and different views,) it is not improbable, that many men have crept into the commission, who, however useful they might occasionally have been, ought not to remain. The needy adventurer—the hunter for preferment—the intemperate zealot—the trader in false loyalty—the jobbers of absentees—if any of these various descriptions of individuals are now to be found, their names should be expunged from the commission. Some clergymen there may have been, who, in a period of distraction, perusing the Old Testament with more attention than the New, and admiring the glories of Joshua (the son of Nun,) fancied they perceived in the Catholics the Canaanites of old; and, at the head of militia and armed yeomanry, wished to conquer from them the promised globe. Such men, I hope, are not now to be found in that most respectable order; and if they are, I need scarcely add, they should no longer remain in the commission.

Gentlemen, I must farther admonish you, if you are interested with any of the Orange or Green associations in this county, to discharge them—discharge all the processions and commemorations connected with them,

and you will promote the peace and concord of the country; but suffering them to prevail, how can justice be administered?—"I am a loyal man," says a witness—that is, "Gentlemen of the petty jury, believe me, let me swear what I will."—When he swears he is a loyal man, he means, "Gentlemen of the jury, forget your oaths, and acquit the orangeman."

Gentlemen, I have had a long professional experience of the state of this country, travelling two circuits every year; and I have spoken the result of my professional observations and judicial knowledge—perhaps the sincerity with which I have put forward these observations may excite some displeasure—But I hope they may do some good, and I am pretty indifferent whether they are found disagreeable or not. Living a great part of my life in the hurry of professional pursuits, I have employed the moments of my leisure in literary retirement. Attached to no party, I have never mixed with the zealots of either—I have been assailed and calumniated by both. Such is the lot of the man, endeavouring to do his duty with firmness and sincerity.

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A Solemn Review of the Custom of War; showing that War is the effect of popular delusion, and proposing a remedy.

"A glorious success, quietly obtained, is more profitable than the dangers of a battle; for we ought to esteem those who do what is agreeable to temperance and prudence, no less glorious than those who have gained great reputation by their actions in war." *Vespasian.*

(Continued from page 157.)

SECTION II.

"Shall the sword devour forever?"

That it is possible to produce such a state of society, as to exclude national wars, may appear probable from the following facts.

1. It is impossible for the rulers of any one nation to do much in carrying on a war with another, without the aid of subjects, or the common people.
2. A war between two nations is generally produced by the influence of a small number of ambitious and unprincipled individuals; while the greater part of the nation has no hand in the business until war is proclaimed.
3. A vast majority of every civilized nation, have an aversion to war; such an aversion that it requires much effort and management, to work up their passions so far, that they are willing personally to engage in such hazardous and bloody conflicts. The more any people are civilized and Christianized, the greater is their aversion to war; and the more powerful exertions are necessary to excite what is called the *war spirit*. Were it not for the influence of a few ambitious or revengeful men, an offensive war could not be undertaken with any prospect of success, except when the mass of the people are either uncivilized or slaves. If then, as great exertions should be made to excite a just abhorrence of war, as have often been made to excite a war spirit, we may be very certain that rulers would find little encouragement to engage in any war which is not strictly defensive. And as soon as offensive wars shall cease, defensive wars will of course be unknown.
4. It is an affront to common sense, to pretend that military officers and soldiers have no right to inquire whether a war be just or unjust; and that all they have to do is to obey the orders of government. Such a doctrine is fit only to be taught to slaves without souls. If a man is called to fight, he should be faithfully informed and fully satisfied, that he is not to act the part of a murderer, that the blood of men may not be required at his hands. Every soldier ought to be impressed with the idea, that offensive war is murderous, and that no government on earth has any right to compel him to shed blood in a wanton and aggressive war. Yet in the present state of general delusion, the soldiers and most of the citizens are treated as having no more right to judge of the justice or the injustice of a war, than the horses employed in military service. On one side a war is certainly unjust and murderous. Yet on both sides it is considered as the duty of soldiers to submit to the orders of government, and fight, whether it be murder, or

not murder ! With the same propriety it might be considered as the duty of a citizen to obey an order of government for murdering an individual of his own nation.

5. National wars often originate from such petty offences, as would not justify the taking of a single life, and from false principles of honour, which every Christian should abhor. What can be more perfect delusion, than to suppose the *honour* of a nation requires a declaration of war, for such offences as would not justify one individual in taking the life of another ? Or what can be more absurd than to suppose the honour of a nation requires going to war, while there is not even the prospect of advantage ? Is such petulance, as would disgrace a common citizen, or such a revengeful spirit, as would disgrace a savage, becoming the dignity of a national government, or the ruler of a Christian people ?

To sacrifice human beings to false notions of national honour, or to the ambition or avarice of rulers, is no better than to offer them to Moloch, or any other heathen deity. As soon as the eyes of people can be opened to see that war is the effect of delusion, it will then become as unpopular as any other heathenish mode of offering human sacrifices.

It is enough to fill the mind of any reflecting man with horror, to think of the millions of his fellow men, who have been sacrificed to the ambition, the avarice, the petulance, or the profligacy of ungodly rulers. How shocking the thought, of armies meeting under the influence of enmity, artificially excited, to plunge their bayonets into the breasts of each other ; and thus to offer human sacrifices by thousands, to some idolized phantom of ambitious or revengeful men ! In every war that has taken place, the soldiers, on one side or the other, have been either the slaves or the dupes of deluded or unprincipled rulers. The soldiers on each side often meet without ever having experienced the least injury from each other ; with no enmity but what has been artificially excited, and without having the least ground to be offended with each other, any more than they had in a time of perfect peace. Yet those who never had any provocation from one another, nor any hand in proclaiming the war, are by art inspired with enmity, and made to thirst for each other's blood, and to perish by each other's hands. A more barbarous mode of offering human sacrifices was never practised by the most savage nations ; nor one, it is believed, more abhorrent in the eyes of Heaven.

Public wars and private duels seem to be practised on similar principles. Gentlemen may fight and kill for petty offences ; but if common people do the same, they are hanged as murderers. Gentlemen of the sword cannot wait the slow operation of law, for the redress of supposed wrongs, but must show themselves men of spirit, that is, ready to kill for an offensive word. What is deemed honourable virtue in them, is shameful vice in other people. That benevolent, forbearing spirit, which is the glory of good people, is thought beneath the dignity of a gentleman of honour ! First to give a challenge, and thus notify a man of a wish to kill him, is supposed to exclude the sin of murder. So in regard to war makers, that magnanimity and forbearance, which would adorn the character of a private christian, is despised by the ambitious ruler in relation to himself. And that petulance, rashness, and disregard to the lives of others, which would render a private citizen the object of just and general abhorrence, are regarded by many, as honourable traits in the character of one who is exalted to rule over men. If in the exercise of this haughty, unfeeling and vindictive temper he declares war, this declaration, he fancies, will secure him from the guilt of murder. Thus thousands after thousands are sacrificed on the altar of his ungodly ambition ; and every means which ingenuity can invent, is employed to delude the unfortunate victims, and make them believe, that with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

There is, however, one circumstance usually attending public wars, which renders them more detestable than private duels. The duelist usually has the generosity to do his own fighting ; but war makers usually have the

means to avoid the dangers which they create, and to call on other people to fight their battles.

Duelling is indeed a horrible custom ; but war is as much more horrible, as it is more desolating and ruinous. As to the principles on which war is practised, it has no advantage of dueling. It is in fact *national dueling*, attended generally with this dishonourable circumstance, that those who give and accept the challenge, call together a multitude of seconds, and then have not the magnanimity, first to risk their own lives, but they involve their seconds in a bloody contest, while they themselves stand remote from danger, as spectators, or at most as directors of the awful combat. Or perhaps more commonly, after issuing their bloody mandate, they indulge in pleasure, regardless of the suffering of others. So "the king and Haman sat down to drink ; but the city Shushan was perplexed."

(To be continued.)

From the European Magazine.

CLAUDINE.

A Swiss Tale. From the French of M. De Florian.

Happening in the month of July 1788 to be at Ferney, which ever since the death of Voltaire has resembled one of those deserted castles which were formerly inhabited by Genii, I resolved to pay a visit to the famous Glaciers of Savoy. A friend, an inhabitant of Geneva, had the goodness to accompany me. It is not my intention to describe our journey : in order to suit the present taste, it would be necessary that I should adopt that style, exalted, sublime, unintelligible to the profane, which a sentimental traveller, after he has advanced two leagues on his journey, cannot possibly do without : I must speak of nothing but my feelings, my susceptibilities, and my extatic sensations ; but I must confess that those phrases, although now so common, still sound strange to my ears. I have seen *Mont Blanc*, the frozen sea, and the source of the *Averon*. I long contemplated in silence those dreadful rocks covered with hoar frost ; those points of ice which pierce the clouds ; that large river, which is called a sea, arrested in the midst of its course, whose solid billows appear as if still in agitation ; that immense vault formed by the accumulated snows of so many ages, from whence there issues a foaming torrent, forcing in its course huge blocks of ice over the rocky precipices. The whole scene impressed on my mind a mingled sensation of terror and melancholy : methought I beheld the horrid scene of nature without a sun, abandoned to the fury of the God of Tempests. Whilst contemplating these pleasing horrors, I gave thanks to the Eternal Creator of all things for having rendered them so uncommon ; and I longed for the moment of my departure, that I might return to the valley, the beautiful valley of Maglan.* There did I expect to console my saddened eyes, in travelling slowly through a beautiful country ; in contemplating on the banks of the Arva those rich carpets of verdure, those tranquil woods, those enamelled meadows, those cottages, those scattered houses, in which my imagination pictured an old man surrounded by his family, a mother suckling her child, or two young lovers returning from the altar. Such are the views most agreeable to my eyes : these are the scenes which affect my heart—which give rise to pleasing recollections, and to agreeable desires.

Oh my good friend Gesner, you thought, indeed, as I do ; you who, born in the most varied, picturesque country in the world, the best calculated to furnish you with description infinitely varied, you never, like so many others, abused the art of description, nor ever thought that a landscape, however brilliant its colours, could do without figures. You sang the shady woods, the verdant fields, the limpid streams ; but shepherds and rural swains were never wanting to inculcate lessons of love, of piety, or of beneficence. Rea-

* A charming valley on the banks of the Arva, which is passed on the road to Chamouny.

ding you, the pleased eye runs over the landscape you have described ; and the mind, still more delighted, is ameliorated by useful precepts, and enjoys a delicious calm.

Such were the ideas that employed my mind while descending from Montanverd, on my return from the frozen sea. After two hours of a painful journey, I arrived at the fountain where I had rested in the morning. There I again wished to repose myself ; for though I am no admirer of torrents, I am very fond of fountains ; besides, I was extremely fatigued. I entreated my brave and honest guide, Francis Paccard, to sit down by me, and we began an interesting conversation concerning the manners, the character, and the mode of living, of the inhabitants of Chamouny. I was pleased with the good Paccard's account of these simple manners about which it is so pleasing to converse were it only to regret them, when a beautiful girl came and offered me a basket of cherries. I took them and paid her for them. As soon as she was gone, Paccard said to me, laughing, "About ten years ago, in the very spot where we now are, it cost one of our young peasants very dear for coming to offer a basket of fruit to a traveller." I begged of Paccard to relate the story. "It is somewhat long," said he ; "I have learned the most minute circumstances of it from the Curate of Salenches, who himself bore a considerable part in it." I pressed Paccard to relate to me what he had heard from the Curate of Salenches ; and being both seated on the ground, leaning our backs against two ash-trees, and eating our cherries, Paccard thus began his tale :

"You must know, Sir, that our valley of Chamouny, ten years ago, was not so celebrated as it is now-a-days. Travellers did not then come to give us their gold for the sake of looking at frozen snow and picking up our pebbles. We were poor, ignorant of evil, and our wives and daughters, employed in the cares of the family, were still more ignorant than ourselves. I mention this that you may have some charity for the fault of Claudine. The poor child was so simple that it was an easy matter to deceive her.

"Claudine was the daughter of Old Simon, a labourer at Prieure.* This Simon, whom I knew well, for he has only been dead two years, was the Syndic of our parish. All the country respected him for his probity ; but his character was naturally severe : he pardoned nothing to himself, and very little to others : he was equally esteemed and feared. If any of our neighbors had quarrelled with his wife, or drank a glass too much on a holiday, he would not have dared to speak to Simon the whole week. When he passed, even the children stopped their noise ; they took off their hats, and never returned to their amusements till M. Simon was at a distance.

"Simon had remained a widower since the death of Madelene his wife, who had left him two daughters. Nanette, the eldest, was well enough ; but Claudine, the youngest, was an angel of beauty.—Her handsome round countenance—her black eyes full of animation—her thick eye-brows—her little mouth, the very picture of that cherry—her appearance of innocence and gaiety made all the young men of our village her admirers ; and when on a Sunday she joined the dance, with a vest of blue cloth closely fitted to her fine shape, her straw hat ornamented with ribbons, and her little cap, which could hardly contain her beautiful hair, it was who should have the honour to dance with Claudine ?

"Claudine was only fourteen ; her sister Nanette was nineteen, and commonly remained at home to look after the affairs of the family. Claudine, as being the youngest, took care of the flock which grazed on Montanverd. She carried with her her dinner and her distaff, and passed the day in singing, in spinning, or chatting with the other shepherdesses. In the evening she came home to Simon, who read some portion of the Bible to his daughters, gave them his blessing, and then all the family went to bed.

* *The principal village of the valley of Chamouny.*

GINSENG.

The following observations on this interesting plant, so precious in the eyes of the Chinese, that they give us pounds of their Tea, for an ounce of the dried root of it, are taken from Michaux's Travels in America, quoted before in this Magazine, p. 168. It is a great pity that our Government has not devised a means of fostering the trade in this root, or that the cupidity and ignorance of certain traders should have forfeited its character, and nearly lost a very valuable branch of trade, if not a source of wealth. The care of it, is still worthy of the attention of the National Legislature. Ginseng still grows in abundance on the declivities, and in the narrow alluvial vales of our mountains, from one end of the United States to the other. If the plants were duly protected by legal restraints, and the roots only collected during proper seasons, and well manufactured, the price of the article may be yet restored to its former value. Whoever may have the profits of the direct trade with China, whether our own or the British merchants, they will still find Ginseng, if well manufactured, more desirable than Spanish dollars, of which it is very evident we have no longer any to spare.

EDITOR.

Although the ginseng is not a plant peculiar to Kentucky, it is still very numerous there. This induces me to speak of it here. The ginseng is found in America from Lower Canada as far as the state of Georgia, which comprises an extent of more than fifteen hundred miles. It grows chiefly in the mountainous regions of the Alleghanies, and is by far more abundant as the chain of these mountains incline south west. It is also found in the environs of New-York and Philadelphia, as well as in that part of the northern states situated between the mountains and the sea. It grows upon the declivity of the hills, in the cool and shady places, where the soil is richest. A man cannot pull up above eight or nine pounds of fresh roots per day. These roots are always less than an inch diameter, even after fifteen years' growth, if by any means we can judge of it with certitude by the number of impressions that are to be seen round the upper part of the neck of the root, produced by the stalks that succeed each other annually. The shape of these roots is generally elliptical; and whenever it is biforked, which is very rare, one of the divisions is always thicker and longer than the other. The seeds of the ginseng are of a brilliant red, and fastened to each other. Each foot seldom yields more than two or three. They are very similar in shape and size to the wild honey suckle. When they are disencumbered of the substance that envelopes them they are flat and semicircular. Their taste is more spicy, and not so bitter as the root. A month or two after they are gathered they grow oily; and it is probable that to the rancidity which in course of time the seed attains, we must attribute the difficulty there is in rearing them when they are kept too long. They are full ripe from the 15th of September to the 1st of October. I gathered about half an ounce of them, which was a great deal, considering the difficulty there is in procuring them.

It was a French missionary who first discovered the ginseng in Canada. When it was verified that this plant was the same as that which grows in Tartary, the root of which has such valuable qualities in the eyes of the Chinese, it became an article of trade with China. For some time after its discovery the root was sold for its weight in gold; but this lucrative trade was but of short duration. The ginseng exported from America was so badly prepared, that it fell very low in price, and the trade almost entirely ceased. However for some time past it has been rather better. Though the Americans have been so long deprived of this beneficial trade, it can only be attributed to the want of precaution that they used either in the gathering or preparation of the ginseng. In Chinese Tartary this gathering belongs exclusively to the emperor; it is done only by his orders, and they proceed in it with the greatest care. It commences in autumn, and continues all the winter, the epoch when the root has acquired its full degree of maturity and perfection; and by the means of a very simple process they render it almost transparent.

In the United States, on the contrary, they begin gathering of ginseng

in the spring, and at the decline of autumn. Its root, then soft and watery, wrinkles in drying, terminates in being extremely hard, and loses thus a third of its bulk, and nearly half its weight. These causes have contributed in lowering of its value. It is only gathered in America by the inhabitants whose usual occupations afford them leisure, and by the sportsmen, who with their carbine, provide themselves for this purpose, with a bag and a pickaxe. The merchants in the interior of the country purchase dried ginseng at the rate of ten pence per pound, and sell it again from eighteen pence to two shillings, at the sea-ports. I have never heard particularly what quantity of it was exported annually to China, but I think it must exceed twenty-five or thirty thousand pounds weight. Within these four or five years this trade has been very brisk. Several persons begin even to employ the means made use of by the Chinese to make the root transparent. This process, long since described in several works, is still a secret which is sold for four hundred dollars in Kentucky. The ginseng thus prepared is purchased at six or seven dollars per pound by the merchants at Philadelphia, and is, they say, sold again at Canton for fifty or a hundred, according to the quality of the roots. Again, the profits must be very considerable, since there are people who export it themselves from Kentucky to China.

Henry Wm. Vander Kleef, of High Holborn, England, has obtained a Patent, for a Walking-Stick, containing a Pistol, Powder, Ball, and Screw-Telescope; Pen, Ink, Paper, Pencil, Knife, and Drawing Utensils.—Aug. 17th, 1813.

The staff is about the usual length of a common walking-cane, and is made of brass, and may be covered or veneered with prepared whalebone, leather, or any other substance, and the shape is round, and rather conical, tapering from the head to the point. It is divided into nine parts, principally tubes, (exclusive of the cap, or head, and the top, or lid of the inkstand,) which are all screwed together, except that part containing the pistol, which is fastened by means of two spring catches fixed opposite to each other. The first, or uppermost part, is an inkstand, with a metal lid screwed thereon, and a small hole in the centre of such lid for a pen to pass through, and a metal knob, or button, to screw into the hole, as a stopper, when the stand is not in use. The cap, or head of the staff, screws on the inkstand, and may be made of silver, or any other metal. The second part serves for the handle of the pistol, which is made of iron, and fixed in the lower end thereof; the barrel being about five inches in length and about half an inch in diameter; the trigger shuts in underneath the barrel, and is projected by the act of cocking the pistol; and the pistol is kept at half-cock, as well as the pan fastened down when not in use by a small bolt, affixed to the upper side of the barrel, the removal of which disengages the pan, enables the pistol to be brought to the full-cock, and discharged. In the upper end of the second part is placed a piece of wood, with three small holes, to receive a pen-knife, pen, and black-lead pencil, and the wood is covered with a brass, or silver plate with correspondent holes. The distance of the plate, from the opening, is about an inch; and on each side of the second part, near the middle, are fixed two small silver loops, through which pass a leather strap and tassel, to put round the wrist of the person carrying the staff. The third is a hollow tube, or case, for the reception of the pistol, with a narrower circular space at the bottom, to fit the muzzle, and keep it steady in the case; and immediately underneath which space is a distended worm-spring, made of steel, with a small circular brass plate, upon which the muzzle of the pistol rests, or presses; the use of which spring is to throw off the pistol-case; and the lower part of the staff, from the pistol, immediately on pressing the spring catches. The fourth part is about eight inches in length, and forms a telescope, with two, or more brass sliding tubes. The fifth part of the staff is a hollow tube, or case, for carrying writing or drawing paper; in the sixth part is a hollow case, or tube, for carrying a piece of Indian ink, and several hair pencils. The seventh part contains a turn-

screw, for taking off the forepart of the pistol-barrel, when it is to be loaded, or cleaned. The eighth part is a small case for containing gunpowder; and the ninth part is a case containing the pistol balls. The eighth and ninth parts are made of brass, and form together the ferrule of the staff.

DEPRECIATION OF MONEY.

The following is given as a statement of the depreciation of money during the last century:—In 1700, 8s. 5½d.; 1710, 8s. 9½d.; 1720, 9s. 1½d.; 1730, 9s. 8d.; 1740, 10s. 2½d.; 1750, 11s. 2d.; 1760, 12s. 2d.; 1770, 13s. 7½d.; 1780, 15s. 2½d.; 1790, 17s. 1d.; 1800, 1l.—were equal to 1l. sterling.

Eu. Magazine, 1815.

Extracts from Tom Brown's new Maxims of Conversation, 1723.

A common slanderer only wants opportunity, to be a cut-throat.

Selfish, never speaks well of any one, and never dines at home. 'Twas justly said of him, that he never opened his mouth but at another man's expense.

The *Ephesian* matron, of famous memory, was an angel to some of our modern wives; she had the manners to wait till her husband was cold before she disposed of herself. Ours enter into new articles before the old bond is cancelled. Dear Betty, says a butcher in Smithfield, a little before he died, I am not a man for this world, therefore I would advise you to marry our man Jack; 'tis a clever, well-built, strong fellow, and our business, you know, requires such an one.—Well, husband, answered she, and so it does; but if that's all, don't trouble yourself, *John* and I have agreed that matter already.

'Tis a sign of the last necessity in an author when he is forced to steal from himself: 'tis worse than robbing the Spittal.

Plays and romances sell as well as books of devotion, but with this difference, more people read the former than buy them; and more buy the latter than read them.

'Twas a merry saying of Rabelais, that a man ought to buy all the bad books that come out, because they will never be printed again.

European Magazine.

EXPEDIENCY OF RASING APPLE-TREES FROM KERNELS WITHOUT GRAFTING.

A remarkable fine apple-tree, of the nonpareil kind, grown from the kernel, without grafting, in Shropshire, has produced an extraordinary crop of fruit, as appears by the following particulars:—This tree was in full leaf on the 10th of November, 1814, when the last portion of the fruit, above four-fifths of the whole, was gathered. It was transplanted at one year old, and the experiment was not tried on any other kernel plant. The age of the tree was probably seven, but not more than eight years' growth from the kernel. The dimensions were 10 feet high, including the shoots of the last season; principal stem 2 feet high, 14½ inches circumference, at 1 foot from the ground. Of the fruit, some of the largest apples measured 10 inches in circumference, and one weighed more than three ounces: twenty-five of the best, gathered 10th November, weighed 10 pounds, although a few specimens of the fruit had been previously gathered. Total number of apples, 435; total weight, 41 pounds 13 ounces; average very nearly 5 ounces for each apple. The quality of the fruit was in every respect like a fine nonpareil, and the wood and the leaves of this tree exactly corresponded with the wood and leaves of that species of apple.

ENO. MAG.

TO CIDER MAKERS.

Joseph Cooper's Receipt for converting Cider into Wine.

Add to a barrel of cider immediately from the press, honey sufficient to make it bear an egg—Work all the filth out of the bung-hole, by keeping

204 Management of Bees. Poetry—Best Cure for Trouble.

the barrel continually full. In about five-weeks draw off the pure liquor into a tub, and put the whites of eight eggs, well beaten up, with a pint of clean sand, into the tub.—Then add a gallon of cider-spirit, and mix the whole well together. And having cleansed the barrel, return the liquor into it, bung it tight, and when fine rack it off into kegs for use. In the opinion of many, the wine is superior to almost any foreign wine; and does not cost 25 cents per gallon, were all the materials procured at the market price.

To the editor of the European Magazine.

SIR—You may probably not deem the following account of an improvement in the *management of Bees*, which is strongly recommended by those who have practised it, unworthy of a place in your Magazine. The improvement is that of having *double sumps*, the one on the top of the other. When the lower sump is filled with honey it is to be removed, after the bees are admitted (through a passage which is made to be opened for the purpose) into the upper sump; in this upper sump food must be put, and the bees will remain there, and fill it with honey. When it is filled, the bees are to be admitted into the former sump again, now to be replaced, after food has been put into it, and the full sump is to be taken away. By thus alternately removing the sumps, more honey will be collected than is usually procured, and the lives of the bees may be spared.

I am, Sir, Your obedient humble servant,

K. K.

P. S. It may not be improper to add, that the change of the sumps should be made about Midsummer.

July, 1792.

Useful Recipe for destroying bed-bugs.

Dissolve half a dram of Corrosive Sublimate in a quarter of an ounce of Spirits of Salt, and mix it with one quart of Spirits of Turpentine; shake the whole well together, and wash all the places where the bugs are supposed to lodge with a brush, in the same manner that rooms are white-washed.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

BEST CURE FOR TROUBLE.

BEN BRISK a philosopher was,

In the genuine sense of the word—

And he held that repining, whatever the cause,

Was unmanly, and weak, and absurd.

When MAT MORE was assaulted by trouble,

Though in morals as pure as a vestal,

He sigh'd and exclaim'd, "life's a bubble,"—

Then blew it away with a pistol!

TOM TIPPLE, when trouble intruded,

And his fortune and credit were sunk,

By a too common error deluded,

Drown'd trouble, and made himself drunk.

But BEN had a way of his own,

When grievances made him uneasy;

He bade the 'blue devils' begone!

Brav'd trouble, and made himself—busy!

When sorrow embitters our days,
And poisons each source of enjoyment,
The surest specific, he says,
For trouble and grief, is—employment.

BILL BUSTLE.

ASIATIC COURTSHIP.

Cæsus had all the joys in life,
Except a young and beauteous wife,
Which now to gain he sought;—
A dashing equipage display'd
To lure some vain ambitious maid,
By splendor to be bought.
Then see him to the race repair
And sprightly Stella meeting there,
And sure by sad mishap—
Lolling in pride and conscious state,
He asked her how “she lik’d the *Race*,”
“Within this gay *Wife Trap*!”
She gaz’d upon the Fop awhile
And then with arch and roguish smile
Reply’d the witty wench—
“Your equipage is grand, but say,
“Am I to understand you, pray,
“In English or in *French*?”

* Bête, *F. a beast, a stupid man.*

C. W.

THE RETURN.

ADDRESSED TO ZOË.

After a long, long week of care and pain,
To-morrow bears me to my love again!
Then shall I wond’ring view, with new delight,
All that in female form can charm the sight—
Those bright, blue eyes, and heavenly smiles that grace
My lovely Zoë’s sweet, expressive face—
Then shall her voice—that voice to me so dear—
In softest accents greet my ravished ear.
Her hand I then shall press—and O! what bliss!
Steal from her blushing cheek th’ endearing kiss!

EUGENIO.

ANECDOTES.

ANECDOTE CONCERNING LEMONIER, PHYSICIAN TO LOUIS XVI.

The following anecdote is but little known; we had it from one who endured the horror of witnessing many of the dreadful scenes at the commencement of the French revolution: It serves to show, that conciliating manners, united with fortitude, may penetrate the hardest hearts. There were not instances wanting during the sanguinary proceedings of the revolutionists, of some few provoking their fate by ill-timed obstinacy and *fierté*.*

Amongst the horrors which marked the 10th of August, Lemonier, the King’s physician, remained in his closet, and was resolved to put on no disguise; a party of men, their arms stained with blood up to the very elbow, knocked loudly at his door; the venerable man immediately opened it:—
“What art thou doing here? Thou art easy enough!”—“I am at my post.”

* *Fierté, F., pride, haughtiness, arrogance.*

—"What is thy business in this castle?"—"I am physician to the King."—"And thou art not afraid?"—"Of what? I am unarmed; would you hurt any one so situated?"—"Thou art a good kind of a devil: listen:—Thou art not in safety here; if others come in, less reasonable than we are, thou mayest be confounded with the rest; I tell thee, thou art in danger. Where shall we conduct thee?"—"To the palace of Luxembourg."—"Come, then, follow us, and fear nothing."—"I have already told you I do not fear those whom I have never injured."

They made him then pass through a grove of bayonets and loaded fire-arms. "Comrades," cried they, as they led the way, "let this man pass. It is the King's physician, but he is afraid of nothing; it is a good devil." And thus the Esculapius of the court arrived safe and sound at the Faux-bourg of St. Germain.

A late Lord Lieutenant of Ireland being obliged to stop for a night at an inconsiderable inn in the county of Westmeath, sent for the landlord; who, being well informed of the local state of the country, and an intelligent person, he justly conceived could give him some useful information. My Lord was so much pleased with this man (whose name was Cuff) that, in a convivial moment, he knighted him. In the morning, however, apprized of the indiscretion, he sent for Cuff, whom he laughingly desired to think no more of the matter; but on the landlord saying "he would consent to sink the title if Lady Cuff had no objection," his Lordship exclaimed—"that the case was desperate when a woman's vanity was at issue," and hastened from the house. This copious, or at least hacknied theme, the vanity of women, the wifings of all ages have uniformly made the most of; but, to the credit of Lady Cuff be it recorded, that being, by the death of her husband, left a free agent, she has dropped a title which ought by some means to have been supported, and endeavors, by attention to her guests, to obtain a maintenance for her family.

FRENCH BEGGARS.

These are a set of beggars at Paris, who excite the public charity in an extraordinary manner; these mendicants do not offer to the eye the loathsome and repellant spectacle of people covered with rags, and displaying revolting infirmities or hideous deformities, but they appear always in clean linen, a good-looking outward garment, and with an air of gentility; while they are distinguished by the manner in which they address their supplications to the passers by. These *select beggars* generally address themselves to the ladies. Their manner, though meek and plaintive, is not mean; it is the moving accent of misfortune, and not the importunate plaint of beggary; and thanks to the perfection to which they have attained, the trade of a beggar has become a science.—One of the masters of this art, *useful*, because he feeds his master, stopped me yesterday on the boulevard Poissonier. "Sir," said he, with a plaintive voice, and downcast eyes, "I am dying with hunger." This expression admits of no refusal: I rummage my pockets, and to my great regret I find no change. "I am very sorry," said I, "I have nothing about me but a piece of gold."—"If Monsieur will give me leave," replies the beggar, without the least embarrassment, "I will change it for him." I give it him, or rather let him take it thinking he will go to the next shop, but with great *sans froid*, he takes out a neat purse, pretty well filled too, and presents three pieces of five francs, and two of forty sous, adding "Monsieur will not think if I keep twenty sous, that it is too much." He gives me my change, makes me a low bow, and leaves me motionless at my own folly and his impudence.

Another class of beggars will say, when a gentleman refuses them, saying he has nothing but gold—"Ah! Sir, when a person has gold and charity, change is easily found."

A TRAVELLER.

HISTORICAL REGISTER.

FOREIGN EVENTS.

RUSSIAN UKASE.

To the Custom-House of St. Petersburg.

His excellency the minister of finance has sent to the department of foreign commerce, for its necessary fulfilment, an attested extract from the journal of the committee of ministers of the 3d July of the present year; by which it is determined, that, "In the importation of merchandize direct from the American States, during the year eighteen hundred and fifteen, a particular specification will be dispensed with."

The department of Foreign Commerce communicating this regulation to the Officers of the Customs, informs them, that the merchandise already arrived here the present season direct from the American States, and all such as in like manner may be imported from thence during the continuance of this year, in the Documents of which, presented at the Custom-House, a specification of the *weight, measure, or quantity* contained in each Package is not inserted, will not be subject to paying *double duty*. The original.

(Signed) OBRESCOFF, Director Senator,

(Signed) H. SKURIDIN.

St. Petersburg, 25th July, 1815.

LATE FOREIGN NEWS.

The following Speech of the King of France, at the opening of his Parliament, is translated from the *Bordelais Gazette*, of the 17th of October.

Paris, October 7, 1815.

This day the King opened the chambers, in the hall of the sittings of the chamber of deputies. Salutes of artillery announced his Majesty's arrival. The King was met at the foot of the steps of the great portico, by a deputation from the chamber of peers, and another from the deputies. The Duke de Orleans and the Prince de Conde, received his Majesty at the top of the stairs of the portico. At his Majesty's entrance, the whole assembly arose, crying, "Vive le Roi!" His Majesty placed himself upon his throne; the assembly was standing and uncovered; the King ordered the peers to be seated, and the Chancellor having given, in his Majesty's name, permission to the deputies to seat themselves—a profound silence reigned—when his Majesty pronounced the following discourse:—

"Gentlemen—When, last year, I assembled the two Houses for the first time, I felicitated myself upon having, by an honorable treaty, restored peace to France; she began to taste the fruits of it; all the sources of public prosperity were re-opened. A criminal enterprize, seconded by the most inconceivable defection, came to stop its course. The evils which that ephemeral usurpation have caused to our country, afflict me deeply. I ought, however, to declare in this place, that if it had been possible for them to have affected me only, I should bless Providence for them.

The *tokens of love* that my people gave me, even in the most critical moments, alleviated my individual sufferings; but those of my subjects, of my children, oppress my heart; and in order to put an end to that state of things, more grievous than war itself, I have deemed it my duty to conclude with the powers who, after having overthrown the usurper, at present occupy a great part of our territory, a convention which settles our present and future relations with them. It shall be communicated to you without reserve, so soon as it shall have received its last form. You will know, Gentlemen, and all France will know, the great pain that I must have felt; but the very safety of my kingdom rendered that great determination necessary; and when I took that determination, I felt the duties that it imposed on me.

I have ordered that, this year, a considerable portion of my revenue be taken from the treasury of my civil list, and paid into that of the state.—My family, on being informed of my resolution, offered me a proportionate do-

nation. I ordered similar retrenchments from the salaries and emoluments of all my servants, without exception. I shall always be ready to unite in sacrifices which imperious circumstances impose on my people. The account of the expenses will be delivered to you, and you will know the importance of the economy that I have directed in the departments of my ministers, and in all parts of the administration. Happy will it be if those measures can be adequate to the burthens of the state ! In every event, I rely upon the devotion of the nation, and the zeal of the two chambers.

But, gentlemen, other cares, more pleasing, and not less important, assemble you this day. It is to give more weight to your deliberations ; it is in order myself to have the assistance of additional talents, that I have created new peers, and that the number of the deputies of departments has been augmented. I hope that I have succeeded in my choice ;—and the assiduity of the deputies in this difficult conjuncture, is also a proof that they are animated with a future affection for my person, and an ardent love for their country.

It is therefore, with a pleasing joy and a perfect confidence that I assemble you about me. Certain that you will never lose sight of the fundamental bases of the felicity of the state: the frank and loyal union of the Chambers with the King, and respect for the constitutional charter ; that charter which I meditated with care before giving it, to which reflection attaches me every day more and more, which I have sworn to maintain, and which you are all, beginning with my family, about to swear to obey, is, without doubt, like all other human institutions susceptible of improvement ; but none of us ought to forget, that the danger of innovating, is not far removed from the advantage of meliorating it. Many other important objects offer themselves to your attention ; to make religion again flourish ; to restore the purity of morals, to establish liberty upon respect to the laws, to render the laws more and more analogous to those great objects, to give stability to public credit, to recompose the army, to heal the wounds that have too much rent the bosom of our country, to secure in short internal tranquility, and thereby to cause France to be respected from without ; those are the objects to attain which all our efforts should be directed. I do not flatter myself that so much good can be the work of a single session ; but, if at the close of the present legislature, it is perceived that we have made approaches to it, we will have reason to be satisfied with ourselves ; I shall spare nothing to attain that end, and I rely, Gentlemen, upon the most active co-operation on your part."

His Majesty having concluded the above discourse, intimated through the Chancellor, to the Princes of the royal family, and to the Princes of the blood, that the present was the time to take the oaths of allegiance to the King, and of obedience to the Constitutional Charter and Laws of the Kingdom. The oath was then successively taken by Monsieur, the Duke d'Angoulême, de Berry, and de Orleans, and the Prince de Conde. The oath of the Peers was then read by the Chancellor, when each peer standing in his place, answered, "*I swear.*" The oath of the Deputies was next read by the Secretary of State of the Interior, when a member of the chamber of deputies, on being called to take the oath, asked leave to speak ; Monsieur the Duke de Richelieu, president of the council of ministers, immediately approached the King, received his orders and said—The immemorial usage of the monarchy does not permit, in similar circumstances, any person to speak in presence of the King, without his Majesty's permission ; his Majesty orders that the calling of the Members be continued. The deputy took the oath. The oath having been taken by all the deputies, Monsieur the Chancellor of France declared in the name of the King that the Session of the chamber of peers and of the chamber of deputies, for the year 1815 was open, and that the chambers were to reassemble on Monday next, to commence the course of their sittings. His Majesty then descended from his throne, and left the hall amidst the same acclamations with which he had been received on his entering it. Salutes of artillery announced the King's departure and his return to the castle of the Tuilleries.

THE
AMERICAN MAGAZINE,
A MONTHLY MISCELLANY,

CONDUCTED BY
HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD, A. M.

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No. 6.

NOVEMBER, 1815.

VOL. I.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LATE BARON STEUBEN.

(Concluded from page 183.)

General Greene said well, that the fate of Virginia, depended on the success of our arms in the Carolinas. That success was very near the Baron's heart; he had a personal attachment to Gen. Greene, and the highest respect for his talents: and certainly he exerted himself to the utmost to fulfil his engagements with him; though he soon felt that he did his duty at the expense of his popularity. It could not be pleasant to the Virginians to see, in such a time of danger, their defences lessening every day. Nor did the Baron's zeal permit him, on every occasion, to act with that mildness and caution, so necessary to be observed by military commanders, in a republic, and among free citizens. Men sufficient to form a regiment had, with much pains, been collected together at Chesterfield court house. The corps was paraded, and on the point of marching, when a well looking man, on horse-back, and as it appeared, his servant, on another, rode up and introducing himself, informed the Baron that he had brought him a recruit. I thank you, sir, said the Baron, with all my heart; you have arrived in a happy moment! Where is your man, Colonel? for he was a colonel in the militia—Here, sir, ordering his boy to dismount. The Baron's countenance altered;—we saw, and feared the approaching storm. A sergeant was ordered to measure the lad, whose shoes, when off, discovered something by which his stature had been increased. The Baron patting the child's head, with his hand trembling with rage, asked him how old he was? He was very young, quite a child. Sir, said he, to the man, you must have supposed me to be a rascal! Oh! no, Baron, I did not. Then, sir, I suppose you to be a rascal, an infamous rascal thus to attempt to cheat your country. Take off this fellow's spurs—place him in the ranks;—and tell Gen. Greene, from me, Col. Gaskins, that I have sent him a man, able to serve, instead of an infant, whom he would basely have made his substitute! Go, my boy, take the Colonel's spurs and horses to his wife;—make my compliments, and say her husband has gone to fight for the freedom of his country, as an honest man should do. By platoons! to the right wheel! forward march! Colonel Gaskins, fearing the con-

sequence, let the man escape, on the arrival of the corps at the river Roanoke; nor was he tardy in returning, and making application to the civil authority for redress. But Governor Jefferson, Mr. Madison, and other gentlemen of the council, not doubting the purity of the Baron's motive, and fully appreciating his honest zeal, prevented any disagreeable results attending this high handed exertion of military power. When Arnold landed in Virginia, there was nothing to oppose him;—a few militia hastily called together, and a troop of Armand's cavalry, mutinous for want of pay, and every necessary, were the whole force. A feeble attempt was made, at a pass near James' River, to oppose his progress, but without effect. He marched on, and civil and military scattered before him. After destroying, and stealing whatever there was time and opportunity to steal and destroy, he retreated towards his vessels. Philips arrived with reinforcements, and marched towards the capital; a few more militia were collected; a show of resistance was made at Petersburg, by the Baron; some lives lost, and a retreat ordered. The Legislature, with the public functionaries, had gone to Charlotte's-Ville, near the mountains. The Baron followed in their rear to the Point of Fork, many miles above Richmond, where the arsenal of the state had been placed, as in a state of perfect security. Notice was, however, soon given that Simcoe and Tarleton were advancing. One of the Baron's aids-de-camp was made prisoner. The artillery and stores were chiefly saved, by being crossed over the river. Tarleton, missing his stroke at the Baron, pushed on to Charlotte's Ville. The Governor and Legislature fled, and it would have been the height of folly to have remained. Mr. Jefferson, has not been dealt fairly with, for his conduct on that occasion—There was nothing to protect him, or them, and it would not have been a mark, either of patriotism, or of common sense, or courage, to have thrown himself into the arms of the enemy. It is true, the Baron had, at this time, collected about 500 militia, if I recollect right, and there was another body of the same kind of troops, under a General Lawson, some 70 miles distant. The Baron's men, I know, were bare-footed, badly armed, and totally ignorant of almost every thing which a soldier should know.

The enemy, after doing all the mischief in their power, retired from the upper country. Cornwallis had arrived from the southward; and the Marquis de la Fayette, with a respectable force, from the northward. The Baron had no desire to put himself under the command of this officer, whose rank, in Europe, had been that of lieutenant only, and for whom he entertained no very cordial regard. With a body blotched all over, with the diseases of the country, and a mind harrassed and chagrined, he retired to Albermarle county, where, fortunate in the society of two or three respectable gentlemen, he remained, until he was informed by General Washington, of his approach to Virginia. At the siege of York, (and he was, I believe, the only officer in the American army, who had ever assisted at a siege,) he had the command of a division; and was fortunate in receiving the first overtures of Lord

Cornwallis, during his tour of duty, in the trenches. At the relieving hour, next morning, the Marquis approached with his division; the Baron refused to be relieved, assigning as a reason, the etiquette in Europe; that the offer to capitulate had been made during his guard, and that it was a point of honor, of which he would not deprive his troops, to remain in the trenches till the capitulation was signed, or hostilities re-commenced. The dispute was referred to the Commander in Chief—the Baron remained until the British flag was struck. Wayne was with him—The fact is fixed in my memory by a circumstance that happened at the time—a shell, thrown from the enemy, fell near them; the Baron threw himself into the trench—Wayne, in the jeopardy and hurry of the moment, fell on him; the Baron, turning his eyes, saw it was his Brigadier—I always knew you were brave, General, said he, but I did not know that you were so perfect in every point of duty; you cover your General's retreat, in the best manner possible. The capture of Lord Cornwallis, closed the campaign. The Baron returned to the northward and remained with the army, continually employed, till the peace, in perfecting its discipline;—and indeed, the army arrived at an high point of knowledge. The adroitness, and above all, the silence, with which manœuvres were performed, was remarked with astonishment by the officers of the French army. The Marquis de la Val de Montmorency, a Brigadier General, said to the Baron, 'I admire the celerity, and exactitude with which your men perform; but what I cannot conceive, is, the profound silence with which they manœuvre! I do'nt know, Mons. le Marquis, from whence noise should proceed, when even my Brigadiers dare not open their mouths, but to repeat the order. Ah!-ha! Mons. General, vociferates the Marquis, *Je vous comprend, Je vous comprend.* The French troops were exceedingly loud in their evolutions and marches, and Mons. la Val, at all times louder than the rest.

On a subsequent occasion, designed to show the high degree of expertness at which our officers and soldiers had arrived, when an intended grand exhibition had been postponed in consequence of a violent storm, the Baron was asked by one of the French Generals, who, with others, had retired with him to his marquee, what manœuvres he had intended to perform? The General was informed, but with a *non chalance*, calculated to induce a belief that it was the first moment the business had been thought on. Yes, said the French Chief, I have seen, particularly the last you mentioned, by the Prussians, in Silesia, but with a very complex addition, which he explained. Yes, answered the Baron, but you will recollect, General, that we are not quite Prussians. *C'est vrai, cest vrai, mais avec le temps*, said the General.—After his guests had retired, the Baron muttered, *cest vrai, cest vrai, avec le temps!* I will let these Frenchmen know, that *we* can do, what the Prussians can, and what their army cannot do. Get the order for review, said he; to one of his aids, set down and add as I dictate—I will save those gentlemen who have not been in Silesia, the trouble of going there—They may come to Verplanck's

Point, next week, for instruction, with their *avec le temps* ! They came, Chiefs and Subalterns, on horseback and on foot, for their encampment was but a few miles off, and every thing was done in the finest style, to their real or pretended admiration. Alas ! when I think of time past, of that day, and look to that eminence, on which General Washington's marquee was pitched, in front of which stood that great man, firm in the consciousness of virtue, surrounded by French Nobles, and the Chiefs of his own army ; when I cast my eyes, then lighted up with soldierly ambition, hope and joy, along that lengthened line, my brothers all ! endeared by ties made strong by full communion in many a miserable, many a joyous hour, my heart sinks at the view ! Who, how few, of all that brilliant host, is left ; those few now tottering on the confines of the grave ! The Baron's tent, that day, was filled, and more than filled, with Frenchmen. I am glad, said he, to pay some part of the dinner debt, we owe our allies. At the siege of York, or rather immediately afterwards, he sold such part of his camp equipage, brought from Europe, as was of silver, that he might give a feast. I can stand it no longer, said he, we are continually dining with those people, and cannot give a piece of *broet wurst* in return—they shall have one grand dinner, if I eat my soup with a wooden spoon forever after. The Baron had a full share of honorable pride—he could not receive without a wish and hope to return. In thought and act, he was indeed most liberal and most kind. On the eve of returning to the northward, from Virginia, I must go, said he, to a sick aid-de-camp—I must leave you, my son, but I leave you among a people where we have found the door of every house wide open ; where the heart of every female is full of tenderness and virtue. Quit this deleterious spot, the instant you are able—there is my sulkey, and here is half of what I have ; God bless you, I can do no more. Nor could he—the feelings of friends, in such a moment, and under such circumstances, may possibly be conceived, but not expressed. A journey of three hundred miles was before him, a single piece of gold in his purse. Are other instances necessary to unfold the texture of his heart ? how many have I, written on my own ! There is, I trust, a book in which they, every one of them, are entered, to the credit of his account with heaven. General Washington had an high esteem for the Baron, and was fully sensible of his worth and merits. On all proper occasions, Congress was urged in his behalf—and from time to time he received of money, good and bad, sums, which some narrow minded men, thought much too large. Elbridge Gerry, and I state it with pleasure, was always liberal in his behalf. Would to Heaven, that Mr. Gore's efforts, in favor of that revolutionary patriot's poor wife and children, had been successful. But what sums, how much, could have been enough for one, who searched around for worthy objects, whose wants might be relieved ? Never did a review, or an inspection pass without rewards in money, to soldiers, whose arms were in the highest order. Never was his table unfilled

with guests, if furnished with provisions. Officers of rank, men most prominent for knowledge and attention to their duty, were marked for invitation ; but the gentlemen of his family were desired to complete the list with others of inferior grade ;—poor fellows, said he, they have field officers' stomachs, without their rations. In the society of ladies, the Baron appeared to great advantage. He engaged in their amusements, and by his wit and pleasantry, the delights of the evening were increased. His stern look and stentorian voice were only for the field. Ah! said an old man who had been a Captain, and then, in 1786, kept a public house, near Utica, how glad I am to see you, Baron, in my house ; but I used to be dreadfully afraid of you ! How so, Captain ? You hallooed and swore, and looked so dreadfully at me once, Baron, that I shall never forget it. O fie, fie, done Captain. It was bad to be sure, said he, but you did halloo most tremendously ! Notwithstanding the bodily fear the Captain had been put in, his look and actions shewed, that there was not a man on earth whom he would have been more rejoiced to see at his table. It is true, the Baron was rough as the ocean in a storm, when great faults were committed ; but if, in a sudden gust of passion, he had injured, the redress was ample. I recollect, that at a review near Morristown, a Lieutenant Gibbons, a brave and good officer, was arrested on the spot, and ordered into the rear, for a fault, which it afterwards appeared another had committed. At a proper moment, the commander of the regiment came forward and informed the Baron of Mr. Gibbons' innocence, of his worth, and of his acute feelings under this unmerited disgrace. Desire Lieutenant Gibbons to come to the front, Colonel. Sir, said the Baron, to the young gentleman, the fault which was made, by throwing the line into confusion, might, in the presence of an enemy, have been fatal. I arrested you as its supposed author, but I have reason to believe that I was mistaken, and that in this instance you were blameless ; I ask your pardon ; return to your command—I would not deal unjustly by any, much less by one whose character, as an officer, is so respectable. All this passed with the Baron's hat off, the rain pouring on his reverend head ! Do you think there was an officer, a soldier who saw it, unmoved with affection and respect ? Not one.

Though never perfectly master of our language, the Baron understood and spoke it with sufficient correctness—He would sometimes of purpose miscall names, and blend or adopt words similar in sound, dissimilar in meaning. Dining at Head Quarters, which he did frequently, Mrs. Washington asked what amusement he had recourse to now that the certainty of peace had relaxed his labours ? I read, my lady, and write, and play chess, and yesterday, for the first time, I went a fishing. My gentlemen told me it was a very fine business to catch fish, and I did not know but that this new trade might, by and by, be useful to me—but I fear I never can succeed—I sat in the boat three hours, it was exceeding warm, and I caught only two fish : they told

me it was fine sport. What kind of fish did you take, Baron? I am not sure, my Lady, but I think one of them was a whale. A whale, Baron, in the North River! Yes, I assure you, a very fine whale, my Lady;—It was a whale, was it not? appealing to one of his Aids. An eel, Baron. I beg your pardon, my Lady, but that Gentleman certainly told me that it was a whale. General Washington, now that his mind was comparatively at ease, enjoyed a pleasantry of this kind highly. I have seen him laugh with all his heart, at Doctor Thomas's story of the Yankee, his countryman, who had journeyed from Taunton, to see Count Rochambeau's army: "The cursed fools who called an hat a chapeau; why could'nt they call it hat at once and done with it."

At the house of the respectable Mrs. Livingston, mother of the late Chancellor, where virtue, talent and modest worth of every kind, met a welcome, the Baron was introduced to a Miss Sheaff, an amiable and interesting young lady. I am very happy, said he, in the honour of being presented to you, Mademoiselle, tho' I see—it is at an infinite risk:—I have, from my youth, been cautioned to guard myself against *mischief*, but I had no idea that her attractions were so powerful.

At the disbandment of the revolutionary army, when inmates of the same tent or hut for seven long years, were separating, and probably for ever; grasping each other's hand, in silent agony—I saw the Baron's strong endeavors to throw some ray of sun-shine on the gloom, to mix some drop of cordial with the painful draught. To go, they knew not whither; all recollection of the art to thrive by civil occupations lost, or to the youth, full never known. Their hard-earned military knowledge was then useless, and with their badge of brotherhood, a mark at which to point the finger of suspicion—ignoble, vile-suspicion! to be cast out upon a world, long since by them forgotten.—Severed from friends, and all the joys and griefs which soldiers feel! Griefs, while hope remained—when shared by numbers, almost joys! To go in silence, and alone, and poor and hopeless; It was too hard! On that sad day how many hearts were wrung! I saw it all, nor will the scene be ever blurred or blotted from my view. To a stern old officer, a Lieut. Col. Cochran, from the Green Mountains, who had met danger and difficulty almost in every step, from his youth, and on whose furred visage, a tear until that moment had never fallen; the good Baron said—what could be said, to lessen deep distress? For my self, said Cochran, I care not, I can stand it; but my wife and daughters are in the garret of that wretched tavern—I know not where to remove, nor have I means for their removal. Come, my friend, said the Baron, let us go—I will pay my respects to Mrs. Cochran and your daughters, if you please. I followed to the loft, the lower rooms being all filled with soldiers, with drunkenness, despair, and blasphemy. And when the Baron left the poor unhappy cast-aways, he left hope with them, and all he had to give. A black man, with wounds unhealed, wept on the wharf—(for it

was at Newburgh where this tragedy was acting) there was a vessel in the stream, bound to the place where he once had friends. He had not a dollar with which to pay his passage, and he could not walk. Where found or borrowed I know not, but the Baron soon returned—the negro hailed the sloop, and cried God Almighty bless you, master Baron !

But why do I retail these scraps of his benevolence, when all who knew him, and were worthy, knew him as their friend.—What good and honorable man, civil or military, before the accursed party-spirit, murdered friendships, did not respect and love the Baron ? Who most ? those who knew him best.

It is time to quit these recollections, to me most dear, to those who knew him not, perhaps, of little worth.—The actors in the revolutionary war alone, can feel themselves connected with its anecdotes or story. After the peace, the Baron retired to a farm in the vicinity of New-York, where, with forming a system for the organization and discipline of the militia—books, chess, and the frequent visits of his numerous friends, he passed his time as agreeably as a frequent want of funds would permit.

The state of New-Jersey had given him a small improved farm ; and the state of New-York, then under the administration of Governor Clinton, gave him a tract of sixteen thousand acres of land, in the county of Oneida ; and after the General Government was in full operation, under the new Constitution, by the exertions of Colonel Hamilton, patronized and enforced by President Washington, and a few liberal and powerful men in Congress, a grant of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum, was made to him for life. After this, the summers were chiefly spent on his lands, and his winters in the city. His 16,000 acres, it is true, were in the wilderness ; but they were his, and he was lord and master of the soil. He built a convenient log house, cleared sixty acres, parceled out his land on easy terms, to some twenty or thirty tenants—distributed nearly a tenth of the tract in gifts to his Aids-de-Camp, and servants, and sat himself down, to a certain degree contented, without society, except that of a young gentleman, who read to and with him. His farm and garden offered him some pleasurable moments ; but his library was the chief solace of the day. This state of inaction, was undoubtedly unfriendly to health—He ate only at dinner, but he ate with strong appetite. In drinking, he was always temperate ; indeed he was free from every vicious habit. His powers of mind and body were strong, and he had received, to a certain extent, a liberal education. His days were undoubtedly shortened by his sedentary mode of life. He was struck with an apoplexy, which in a few hours was fatal. Would to God ! but, it is no matter—the little time that parts us from our friends will soon be passed.—Agreeably to his desire, often expressed, he was “ wrapped in his cloak,” placed in a plain coffin, and hid in the earth, “ without a stone to tell where he lies.” A few neighbours, his servants, the young gentleman his late companion, and one on whom, for fifteen years, his coun-

tenance never ceased to beam with kindness, followed to the grave. It was in a thick and lonely wood; but in a few years after, a public highway was laid and opened near, or over the hallowed sod! Walker snatched the poor remains of his dear friend from sacrilegious violation, and gave a bounty to protect the grave in which he laid them, from rude and impious intrusion.

Some few years previous to the Baron's death, a pious gentleman of the city of New-York, who had a great affection for him, told me, with strong marks of joy, that they had passed the evening, and a part of the last night together—That the Baron confessed his full belief in Jesus Christ, with sure and certain hope, through-him, of a blessed immortality. From the life our dear friend has led, in camps and in the gay world, said the good man, I feared; and you don't know what joy I feel, in the belief that he will be well to all eternity! The Baron was a member of the Reformed German Church, in New-York. He died in 1795, in the sixty-fifth year of his age.

But it is time to close—and thus, Sir, you have these recollections, hastily thrown together, with all their imperfections. I would they were in better form, and that this Sketch were more worthy the memory of my benefactor and friend. Many years have elapsed, and left their effects upon my head, while only the memory of the heart remains, unimpaired by time. Much, due to the memory of the Baron, is forgotten; little, of the tribute of the heart, to the virtues of the man—but of all this how much remains untold!

A.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

You admit old men, I see. Mr. Spafford, to tell their experiences in your Magazine, and I think you are right; for a work of that kind ought to be filled with all sorts of munitions of war, fit for the purpose of battering down ignorance, pride, and all manner of impediments to knowledge, and a well regulated life. The story of the German of Bern, is a very good story; and for my own part, knowing how much we have altered for the worse in thirty years, I could have attended to his plain and honest tale of other times, and joined with him in railing at our pride and want of economy, an hour longer, would you have indulged him so long. He is a man of good sound sense, and speaks truth. Why, sir, there is nothing now but head work, and foppery, and expense of every kind. When time was worth something to a farmer, thirty years since, it was the custom to be up before day, from the first of this month at least; and all through the winter, the cattle were foddered, and every thing fed, family and all, by candle light, that when the day broke, they might go to their daily labour. Now we wait as patient as can be, not only for day-light, but frequently for sun-shine to get up by! The old gentleman could tell you, Mr. S., that he formerly thought ~~span~~ and milk, or bread and milk, or hasty-pudding, or mush, as it is also called, a very good breakfast, or supper, and with the addition of butter, or a piece of cold meat, a ~~meal~~

for a prince. Who eats supan now? Tea, Mr. S. has driven poor supan, and bread and milk almost out of the country. To be sure, we formerly had, now and then, a cup of bohea, and paid three shillings a pound for the luxury. Who drinks bohea now? No, hyson-skin, at two dollars a pound, that's your sort. And now, that we in the country, are all getting to be lawyers and merchants, I think gun-powder, before long, will bring us up.

To be honest with you, I did mean to play off a bit of an equivocal; for what with taxes, and change of climate, and floods, and waste of time, and want of economy, and British manufactures, and East and West-India produce, I think we are in as fair a way, as ever a nation was, of being blown up. Go into one of our meeting houses, Mr. S., there is no room in taverns, they are full, and you will see the hat-and-shawl, and mul-mul muslin pitch to which we have arrived! Leather! Oh no, you will see no leather there but long quartered shoes, laced like the sandals of Andromache, and our young fellows booted, a la Souvaroff. Sir, you might stare your eyes out, before you could spy a bit of homespun, among the girls, except indeed an openworked shawl, with wide meshes to keep the cold out. It is wonderful how they are ribboned, and bonneted and scaramouched—and if the poor dears did but know it, they would look much prettier in homespun—to say nothing of how they must feel, to be so straitened, and tricked off, and thinned of their under garments. But it is time to come to the point, for which this letter was begun; for however strange you may think it, all that has been yet written, is but a kind of preface to a statement I am going to give you about potatoes! I had understood from some publication or other, that it was a nice point of economy to plant the eyes of potatoes only, and give the hearts to the hogs. Knowing well, that a farmer who would wish to thrive, must save all he can, and waste nothing, I thought it was a piece of economy worth attending to. I therefore fed the hearts to the hogs, and I supposed they did the beasts some good, notwithstanding the learned dissertations of two of my friends to the contrary. Last spring, however, it struck me, that though potatoes would grow from eyes, and that hearts would fat hogs, whether these same hearts might not be more valuable as affording nutriment to the young shoots of the potatoe, than to the pigs:—I therefore weighed two pounds of potatoes, and after cutting the eyes out, planted them in four hills—the eyes and hearts were equal in weight—each one pound. Four other hills I planted with two pounds of potatoes cut in the common manner, eye and heart together—and four other hills also, with two pounds, planted whole—and I have just been digging and weighing my crop. The eyes without heart, weighed fourteen pounds and an half—eye and heart cut, twenty-seven pounds and an half—and those planted whole, weighed twenty-seven pounds. They were all of the same kind, white kidney, an excellent potatoe. The ground was equally good, and though the season was too dry, they all

fared alike. Four hills of red potatoes, planted in the same ground, and of the same weight, yielded but thirteen pounds. The experiment is on a small scale, but it is sufficient to prove to me, that the taking the hearts from the cuttings, is robbing them of that, (according to the doctrine of my two friends aforesaid) 'which not enriches hogs, but makes the cuttings poor indeed.' The experiment also shews, that whether potatoes are cut or planted whole, the difference is of no consequence. What is gained would not pay for cutting. As to the red potatoes, I confess, as my countrymen say, I was *beat*—Why they should give only half as liberally as their neighbours the whites, I know not.

I knew long since, as every one knows, that some kinds of potatoes are much more prolific than others:—the worst for eating being generally the greatest bearers. I proved to my own satisfaction, and endeavored by publishing the result of an experiment, in a Gazette, to prove to others, (my two friends always excepted) that potatoes alone would fatten an hog in less time than Indian corn; but as there undoubtedly is a difference in the quantum of nutriment contained in different sorts, it would be a good deed done, if any one, by fair trial, would determine this point.

I have very fine looking potatoes, raised from the seed, which I gathered last autumn. I had tried the common method, as I was told it was, of pricking the balls, and hanging them up, or putting them away in a place where they would not freeze; but when planted they never produced. I then took the little seeds from the balls, washed, and put them in a paper;—a large proportion of them sprung up, after planting, and some of them produced roots as big as a pullet's egg.

I am, Sir, your humble servt.

An Inhabitant of the Town adjoining Bern.

October 11th, 1815.

Columbus, State of Ohio, Oct. 10, 1815.

MR. SPAFFORD,

If you approve of the plan which I suggested to you sometime since, and of my execution of it so far, you will probably consider the following remarks worth giving to your Readers. I have not been able to write you so often, or so much as I intended, during my Tour, owing to a want of leisure; but my Journal shall be at your service whenever I shall have ended my peregrinations. I have found, however, all the gratifications, afforded by my journey, that I had anticipated. From Pittsburgh, I have traversed this State in many directions, and have witnessed the astonishing changes in the condition of the country, and in the circumstances of many of the inhabitants whom I had formerly known, with a good deal of attention, and with the highest interest. I am just on the eve of my departure, having spent a few days here, examining the site of the future Capital of the State of Ohio, designed, not to preserve the immortal name of the discoverer of the *New World*, but to perpetuate here a tribute of

gratitude to his memory. The site of this Town is well chosen, and the Yankee spirit of the East, is seen in its vigorous growth. From here I pass through the Illinois and Michigan Territories, into Upper Canada, purposing to traverse the fine peninsula formed by the Lakes Huron and Erie, and reach Albany, by the way of Niagara, some time during the Winter. But, it is time to enquire, how progresses the Grand Canal, projected by your State, designed to connect the navigation of the Hudson with the vast world of the West, and the fresh water seas that it embraces? At every seat of considerable intelligence and enterprize on my route, the question has been proposed; and you would be astonished to witness the deep interest which the principal inhabitants of this State feel in the successful issue of that important enterprize. In the northern part particularly, in what is called *New Connecticut*, the *Grand Canal* occupies, I am afraid, more attention than it does amongst those New Yorkers whose interests are far more deeply concerned in it. Indeed, I learn, from what I deem good authority, that this subject will occupy the attention of the next Legislature of this State, and that representations from it will probably be made to the Legislature of New-York, during the next session of that Body. It appears to me, as to the people on my route, that the present time should not fail to be improved in zealous efforts to secure the great objects proposed by this Canal, and that a few years' delay in its commencement, will be a national misfortune, not easily overcome. I need not detail to you my reasons for this opinion—but I may observe that the courses of trade and intercourse once formed, cannot be readily changed or diverted from the accustomed channels. In my way through the western part of New-York, if I talked of patriotism and national preferences, to those who are trading to the North, the herdsman, the owner, and the drove, all listened alike, and I might just as well have talked to one as the other. The magnitude of this trade, can only be equalled by its importance, and which time alone will fully disclose to the public. If you have not, as you assure me, 'one particle of political influence with the public,' you may at least make your works a means of calling the public attention to a subject of the highest importance to the people of New-York, to the whole nation, and the age in which we live. I am told that about 20 copies of your Magazine, come to subscribers in this Town, with some of whom I know the Grand Canal proposed by the powerful and intelligent State of New-York, is a favorite topic. This hasty scrawl, should you give it a place, may be the happy means of exciting a spirit of enquiry and enterprize, in relation to this subject, from which may grow able expositions, and important public benefits.

A few more remarks, and I bid you adieu till I shall reach Detroit. I have found barrels of the Onondaga salt on this river, [the Sciota] and in a few minutes a boat leaves here for New-Orleans, by which I send a box of collections made on my tour, for you, to be forwarded via New-York. You will find in it a large and elegant *Map of the State of Ohio*, made from actual survey,

and with a minuteness and accuracy highly creditable to the State. All that is now wanting, is a Gazetteer, on the plan of your's of the State of New-York, and which I am told is called for by the public, and contemplated by very competent talents.

No Traveller can perform the journey that I have, at this time, without many vexations, arising from the very inadequate substitute, now in use in the United States, for money. At almost every stage, new exchanges must be made, and new discounts lost, for the purchase of other paper! Nor could I fail to perceive the *brighter* pleasures of trade, which those enjoyed, who had gold and silver in payment for such articles as have been sold to our neighbours in C—a. You can have no idea of the effect of these things—nor imagine how much the present circumstances of the two countries, in relation to their circulating media, prejudice our own interests. *Rags*, and *Dollars*, is in every mouth. Happily it is none of my business to prescribe for the interests of the nation in this matter—but it must be the business of the next Congress, if they would save us from utter ruin. What can be done, I know not—but if we must have nothing but paper, let them devise the means to give to that paper, at least, an equal currency in every part of the United States, and this would relieve us much from our present difficulties. Besides the invisible influence which the multiplicity of paper now in [very partial and limited] circulation as money has had, in raising the price of every thing, the exchanges which a Traveller has to make in a long journey, will increase his expenses at the rate of 15 to 20 or 25 per cent.! And for whose benefit do we encounter such enormous losses, such vexatious exactions? It is high time the enquiry were made, and made by all.

F. D. B.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

I HAVE lately noticed in the newspapers, an interesting relation of a young man at Providence, R. I., who by extraordinary presence of mind escaped from the terrors of a fate that seemed almost inevitably to await him. And as I think this quality of the mind may be, in some considerable degree, acquired by habit, I request you to publish that, with the following case, related to me by an eye-witness. I do not suppose that the exercise of this very desirable quality, is altogether artificial. There may be, and I believe there are, minds originally endowed with greater powers in this respect, as in all others; but that the habit of self-command, like every other, good or bad, acquires strength by continuance and use, I am fully persuaded. If presence of mind be so desirable, and we all know that it is, let us fully persuade ourselves that by perseverance we can attain it in some degree, or improve our habitual ability in its exercise, and we are sure of our object. I need not cite the experience of every day, to confirm this; nor need I advert to the frequent calamities that prove to our recollections how much we should gain by self-command, and a

steady and uniform presence of mind. Let us recollect that if it be this that makes a hero, in time of war, it is often this also that saves a Town from conflagration, and rescues the property and lives of neighbours and friends. Let any of us, who have witnessed the spreading terrors of a destructive fire in a populous Town, turn our recollections upon the few, who, enjoying these rare qualities of the mind, have been the means, under the blessing of Providence, of checking its ravages; and if we prize their achievements, and honor their heroism, let us inspire the youthful mind with a zeal to go and do likewise. The truth is, we do not honor these virtues or qualities as we ought; and this is, perhaps, the principal reason that they are not far more common. Were worldly wisdom wise, the young man at Providence should be honored with the approbation of a paternal government,—whether by the care of the people of the Town, State, or Union, is no matter—and thus we would perpetuate the *virtues*, by the distinctions conferred on heroism. But, we habitually magnify the feats of valor of the hero in arms, and forget him, who, surrounded by greater personal dangers, mounts aloft in fire and smoke to pluck the flaming brands from a stranger's roof, and save a whole Town from destruction! The justice of these observations will be apparent to all your readers, and many will pause to comment upon them, and to relate the interesting incidents and affecting scenes which they have witnessed, and which have now again occurred to their recollections. Let us record well the facts, and honor the deeds of heroism which are unstained with blood and crimes, for the praise of such deeds will endure for ever, and may be heard in Heaven.

Mr. V. S. was travelling for the benefit of his health, and being very feeble, called at a country Inn, to avoid the heat of a sultry day in August. A woman, and two little boys, the one 9 and the other $5\frac{1}{2}$ years old, were the only persons near the house. He had just laid down to rest, when he heard the screams of the mother, whom he immediately saw running across the street, accompanied by the oldest boy. As he followed, he saw her fall at the opposite fence, and lie struggling as in a fit, unable to rise. The boy proceeded to a well, a few rods within a field, and called to Mr. V. S. for help, without having seen his mother fall. He now saw the child of $5\frac{1}{2}$ years old, lying flat on its back, near half covered with water, about 12 feet under ground, and perfectly still and composed. He was too feeble to descend himself, the well was too broad for the boy to reach with his feet from side-to-side, and the mother at this moment arrived in a state of frantic desperation which totally deprived her of reason. She would have plunged headlong upon the child, and was only prevented by the utmost strength of Mr. V. S. At this moment, a passing traveller came to their aid, who descended and brought up the little hero, shivering with cold, and who by an extraordinary presence of mind had lain perfectly still on a piece of board that *chanced* to be under him. On being asked how he could lie so still, he immediately answered, that if he stirred, the board tried to get out from under him!

‘And there was such a firmness of manner, such an heroic composure of mind in this boy,’ said Mr. V. S., ‘that I absolutely regarded him with wonder and admiration.’ In attempting to water the horse, the bucket had *unhooked*, as they expressed it; and in attempting to recover the bucket, the misfortune happened, which had threatened to prove so fatal. The mother was subject to fits. Mr. V. S. left marks of his bounty with the boys.

RURICOLA.

FROM THE R. I. AMERICAN.

Presence of Mind, is a quality not possessed by one man in a thousand, when sudden destruction appears inevitably to await him. During the late gale and flood in this town, (Providence) a young gentleman of the place, belonging to Colonel Humphreys’ Cadets, was endeavouring to secure a vessel; she broke loose with him on board; he jumped overboard from her to another vessel, and endeavouring to spring from her to the wharf, he fell into the river.—He was swept away by the tide, then going with more violence than a mill-race. He seized a floating spar, mounted it, and was beheld by the astonished crowds at the wharves, (that were beholding with amazement and awe, at their own impotency in the hands of Him “who commands the winds and the seas and they obey him,” the wreck of stores, wharves, houses, and shipping, forcing their way through the bridge) deliberately pulling off his boots and clothes, to prepare for the worst. Just before the spar struck the head of the cove, when he must have been crushed to death by the fragments of wrecks, &c. he dived and rose under the stern of a vessel that was partly resting on the shore, seized a rope, and, after blowing a little, hauled himself on board, and reached the shore in safety. In the afternoon he was seen walking the streets as usual, free from injury.—Such presence of mind makes the great captain, and immortalizes heroes.—Such did Greene possess; such does our fellow-citizen, the hero of Erie, possess. At school I read something of Julius Cæsar plunging into the foaming Tiber, to shew how peculiarly he was the care of the Gods, Jupiter, &c. or, as they would say in Connecticut, to shew, that a man cannot die before his time comes. I consider him a vain-glorious fool in comparison with our young man.

G. S. L.

Sept. 1815.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

A HISTORY of the late WAR of AMERICA with the BARBARY STATES, is now wanted by every patriotic American, and by every Patriot Statesman in the world. This is a fine field for the Historian, and let us hope that it may be well improved. We shall probably have a host of publications announced as Histories of that War, within a short period, and it is likely they will all receive something of public patronage. But—neither of these hasty productions can do justice to a subject of such importance. Let us take a little time to discriminate, and reserve the principal sup-

port of such a Work, for one that shall merit the decided preference of a liberal and enlightened public. It has been intimated to the writer of this article, that an Officer in the late Expedition, in every respect well qualified for his task, went out prepared to collect materials for a History, with an intention to arrange and present it to the public as soon as might be practicable after his return. The fleet has returned in triumph, and we owe a tribute of gratitude to those zealous and patriotic defenders of American Rights, whose skill and bravery have displayed the flag of our country with distinguished honor on foreign shores, from which they have just returned. Let us wait then, for a History of that Expedition, written by an Officer who shared in its toils and dangers.

AN OLD SOLDIER.

New-York, Nov. 13, 1815.

There appeared in 'THE STAR,' a very respectable Paper, published at Raleigh, N. Carolina, in October last, an interesting summary of the evidence on a Trial of John R. Cooke, John Davis, and Samuel Bailey, charged with the murder of a Negro man, claimed as a slave by Bailey. In the course of the Trial, such scenes of wanton and brutal inhumanity were disclosed, as would almost exceed belief, in this part of the United States. Such savage sport as these monsters made of the life of a human being, would disgrace the veriest savages on earth. The men were tried for their lives, however, on a charge of murder, and all but Cooke were acquitted—by what means, or by what institutions called laws, it is not our purpose to enquire. Cooke was condemned to expiate his crime on the gallows—he was actually brought out for execution, and made to cry with fear, when a Pardon from the Governor set the culprit free! This was on the 20th of October: and in 'THE STAR' of October 27th, we find the following Editorial remarks on this extraordinary affair.

"John R. Cooke, one of the murderers of the Negro Stephen, who was, pursuant to sentence to have been hanged in this city on Friday last, was pardoned at the gallows by His Excellency the Governor. On that day, he was brought out of jail seated on his coffin in a cart, and carried to the gallows: after remaining there some time and hearing the discourses of some pious men who attended him, a noose was put round his neck, and the cap drawn over his eyes. He now began seriously to think it was really intended to hang him, which he had not believed before. He asked the Sheriff if he had not a pardon for him; the Sheriff said not, and ordered the cart to drive off. The criminal then moaned bitterly, when Mr. Simon T. Sanders, the Governor's Secretary, stepped up and handed the Sheriff a pardon, and Cooke was immediately turned loose.—Numerous petitions were presented to the Governor in his favor. Many thought it hard to hang Cooke, when it was believed Davis and Hefflin were equally guilty, and his brother Joe Cooke, almost equally so. Some thought, as this was the first instance in which a white man had ever been con-

victed for killing a Negro, it would be impolitic to hang him so unexpectedly. And others believed that it would be wrong in all respects, to hang a white man for killing a Negro. But whatever might have been the motives of his Excellency, we hear no dissatisfaction expressed by any at this act of clemency; yet we think it may be well to caution the unwary against a repetition of the too common practice of whipping Negroes to death, as the courts have shown a disposition to bring offenders to account; and executive interposition may not be expected in all cases."

In the same Paper of Nov. 10, 1815, we find the Communication which follows, on the same subject.

"*Mr. Henderson*—After reading in your paper the interesting trial of Cooke, Davis, and Bailey, and learning the particulars of one of the most cruel, unprovoked, and deliberate murders I remember ever to have heard of; it was with no little surprise I afterwards learned that the only one who was condemned (though not the only one who deserved it) had been **PARDONED BY THE GOVERNOR**. You say no complaints are made at the exercise of this act of clemency. I know not what public opinion is, as I mix but little with the world. Many may dislike to be restricted in the amusement of whipping Negroes to death. From the testimony on the trial, it seemed to have been a delightful recreation to Davis, Cooke, Hefflin, & Co. to flog a poor exhausted Negro; two of them quarrelled for the privilege, and permission to flog was even a stipulated reward for apprehending him. I can only answer for myself and some of my neighbours. We consider what you call *clemency* as an encouragement to murders. Good men, lovers of justice and order, will hereafter look upon the attempt to bring criminals to justice as useless trouble, if the Governor is to step in and screen them from punishment. What has been the effect in this instance?—*Why, sir, the other day, almost in the neighbourhood of your city, a man hunting, found a Negro in the woods, and without knowing who he was, or asking to know, and without any provocation, he shot him down dead as he would have done a deer!* The Governor's motives for pardoning Cooke ought to be known, as the suspicions I have heard are various, mostly unfavourable, and certainly not all true. In England, the king lays before his people the reasons which govern him when he obstructs the course of justice. The Governor's silence in this respect may be the result of prudent caution, but the people cannot be blamed if their suspicions happen to be incorrect. Cooke's former *good* character certainly did him no service, and his getting drunk and exercising more than brutal rage upon a poor dumb beast as soon as he left the *gallows*, speak little in commendation of that act of *clemency* of which you seem to boast. Whether he and his miserable brother, (who ought to have been a culprit instead of a witness,) have been encouraged by executive "*clemency*," to recommence their accustomed outrages upon the laws and the peace of society, I do not know, nor do I expect to know if I wait to hear the report of a public trial; for few will think it worth while to put the country to the trouble and

expense of another. If crimes cannot be punished under the existing laws and state of things, it is high time to effect a change. If death cannot be inflicted, let us have a Penitentiary. If Executive clemency is too often interposed, let us alter the Constitution, and take from the Governor the power to pardon. Something must be done or we shall become a bye-word among the nations. I am incapable from many causes, of doing more than throw out these hints, and if you will in some shape give them to the public, they may excite thinking, and produce action, and I shall have done my best to serve a world that I wish well to, though my age and infirmities daily admonish me that I am soon to have no interest in the affairs of it myself. *A Constant Reader."*

We are no advocates for the shedding of blood, and least of all by the horrid crime of murder; but we do believe that the law may decree the death of the murderer, and be innocent of blood, else where is the atonement, and where the security which the law ought to provide against a repetition of the crime? This is a delicate subject, and we are disposed to say as little upon it as may be; but we entreat every serious reader, and especially every pious Christian, to read the above extracts with attention. We know that this case is one of the fruits of slavery, and in our youth we saw so much of the fruits of this inhuman practice, that we know this case is by no means a rare occurrence. We also know that a great many of the Slave holders in the Southern, or more properly in the Southern section of the Middle States, regard the circumstances of the Blacks as a subject of the deepest inquietude and humiliation. Many there are, amongst the most intelligent and respectable members of society in those States, who deeply deplore their unfortunate possessions of property in human flesh, and who treat their slaves with great kindness and compassion. We have reason to believe that the number of this description of people is rapidly increasing, while many from motives of policy or interest, are wishing to get rid of the burden of their slaves. It unfortunately happens, in this state of things, that the increased demand for the labor of the blacks in the States further South, is a means of retarding the work of reformation as respects them, while it carries a great many into a slavery far more intolerable and severe than these poor creatures had ever experienced before. This subject well merits the most careful attention of the National Legislature. During a late tour through a part of Maryland and Virginia, we were much gratified with the improved condition of many of the Blacks, who had formerly been held as slaves. In several instances we learnt that the slaves on being manumitted, refusing to leave their former masters, were furnished with land to cultivate, and a house for their families, on paying small rents. We learnt also, from a most worthy family which had done this some years before, that they had continued to hire these faithful Blacks to perform their work, and that they were well assured their business was better conducted than formerly, while the same laborers were slaves;—that the Negroes maintained their families well, were punctual and honest tenants,

and good 'neighbors.' On going to the house of one of these neighbors, we found all neat and orderly within, and learnt the cause of their fidelity to their former master. "We always loved him," said they, "and all the family, for they were as good to us as to one another." Such scenes as these are highly honorable, and the public ought to be apprized that they exist, for they display a loveliness of virtue that would inflame many a generous mind with an ardent desire to imitate the example.

EDITOR.

BERKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE following account of the proceedings at the late Annual Cattle Show and Fair, of this Society, presents a very interesting View of the state of that Institution, and of the progress of the arts, in the flourishing and patriotic County of Berkshire. At first, we concluded, from its great length, to make some abridgement, regretting a want of room to give the whole entire. But on reflection, we cannot exclude any part, without doing injustice to our own convictions of the interest and importance of this subject. The County of Berkshire has set an example highly honorable to its character, and worthy of imitation in every part of the United States: not merely in the exhibitions of its annual Fairs—for we have little relish for shows or sports of any kind, considered merely as such, and for the purposes of amusement;—but in the effects that have been produced, by the spirited exertions of some enterprising and enlightened individuals. If we mistake not, this Institution will prove a parent stock, from which will arise a numerous progeny, every where doing good, and promoting the prosperity of the country, and from which shall arise, in due time, a monument of praise to its worthy and zealous founders. In Britain, the great usefulness of similar institutions, is now universally acknowledged, because the people have formed their opinions from the results of long experience: and no men are regarded with more veneration, as having promoted the public good, than the enlightened Patrons of agricultural associations. The effects that have followed, are incalculably great, in Europe, and can certainly be no less so in America. The County of Berkshire, has long been distinguished for the general character of its agriculture—perhaps, also, no county, within many miles, could be considered as rivalling it in the excellence of its household economy and domestic manufactures, necessarily connected with the system of nice economy which is so observable in the management of the farm. Such were our convictions, resulting from occasional opportunities of observation, during many years of some acquaintance with the peculiar habits of that country—and were it necessary to prove these observations well founded, we could cite the experience of thousands among the citizens of this State. The Berkshire farmer, wherever he migrates, carries with him and perpetuates the habits of that county, as conspicuous on the farm and in his fields, as within doors, and which are no where ex-

celled, for the perfection of every branch of farming economy. But these observations are only made in order to draw the public attention to a few others, for which we have the highest authority. Since the introduction of the Merino sheep, and the organization of the Agricultural Society, the County of Berkshire has made a progress in its improvements of domestic economy, in almost every particular, that would, perhaps, exceed the bounds of credibility. Within a few years, while the products of many branches of industry have been more than quadrupled, it is admitted that the aggregate amount of surplus products is considerably more than doubled, and that too with the addition of but a very few more acres of land to the operations of husbandry. The population of this county, may be about 36,000, or 37,000 inhabitants, of all ages.

EDITOR.

Pittsfield, October 12, 1815.

Pittsfield Cattle Show and Fair.

The fifth Cattle Show and Fair was celebrated in this Village, on the 2d and 3d instant. It was the most brilliant and interesting display ever exhibited in this County. The Society were blessed with two fine days for the exhibition, and although the rapid improvements in Agriculture, Domestic Animals, and Manufactures were manifest, yet it was a matter of general regret that the first day should have been fixed on Monday, which probably prevented many animals' coming from the more distant parts of the County. Nevertheless, the animals were numerous; the pens were enlarged, and their fine appearance was universally admired by numerous spectators.

At an early hour our females were seen coming from various quarters with the rich fruits of their industry and ingenuity; and it was grateful to every true lover of his country to see the rapid improvement, both in quantity and quality, of our domestic manufactures. The display on the 2d day was peculiarly interesting, and the whole community were delighted with the proceedings. At 12 o'clock the Members of the Society, with several honorary Members from a distance, having the badge of the Society in their hats, formed a most respectable procession, and were escorted from Morgan's Coffee House to the Old Church, by Capt. Allen's company of Infantry, and a Band of Music, where the articles of premiums, being Silver Bowls, Cups, Spoons, &c. to the value of \$600 were handsomely arranged in front of the pulpit. About one hundred singers were seated in the front galleries, and the Band of Music arranged themselves in the rear of the Organ.

The Rev. Mr. Shepard, of Lenox, opened the ceremonies of the day by reading a vote of the Society, with a request to solemnize the opening scene with suitable expressions of gratitude and praise in celebrating our agricultural prosperity. He then read a psalm suited to the occasion, which was admirably sung by the numerous choir of singers; after which he addressed the throne of grace in a very impressive and peculiarly appropriate prayer.

The President of the Society then pronounced an Address to the members and the citizens assembled on the occasion, which was also appropriate, interesting and useful; it discovered great research into agricultural and manufacturing pursuits, the promotion of which is the chief object of the institution; and was received with much applause. As the Society have unanimously requested a copy for publication, and the request has been complied with, it will, therefore, shortly speak its own eulogium, and we forbear further comment thereon. After the conclusion of the address, an Ode was read, composed for the occasion, and sung by the choir in a very handsome manner. It may not be improper to say, that the performances of the singers were highly gratifying to a very numerous audience, and merited and received universal commendation.

The premiums were then announced by Elkanah Watson, Esq.* and all eyes were fixed with interest on the successful candidates, as they rose to receive their premiums. The effect produced on this interesting occasion, which was animating and visible; we think, must carry conviction to the mind of every person present, at least, of the great utility and importance of this institution. We hope it will be cherished and supported by our fellow citizens. The Reports of the several Committees of Awards are published in the order they were communicated.

PREMIUMS ON AGRICULTURE.

The Committee appointed by the Berkshire Agricultural Society to examine Crops standing in the fields, having attended the duties assigned them, submit the following Report, viz.

THAT on the seventeenth of July last, they commenced the examination of the crops standing in the fields of the several applicants for premiums, and proceeded as far as circumstances would then permit;—Indian corn at that time not having arrived to such a state of maturity as would justify a decision. The committee then adjourned to the 20th day of September, at which time they again assumed the duties assigned them, and having carefully examined the crops shown them by the several applicants, have heretunto subjoined a list of the names of persons to whom premiums are awarded.

<i>Spring Wheat</i> , largest quantity and best quality, raised on an acre of land, John Farnum, Lanesborough, Silver Cup,	312
<i>Indian Corn</i> , do. to Gideon Norton, Lanesborough, Cup,	12
<i>Rye</i> , do. to Asaph Dewey, Lenox, Cup,	12
<i>Oats</i> , do. to Warren Bebee, Richmond, Cup,	12
<i>Barley</i> , do. to Silas Smith, Lanesborough, Cup,	12
<i>Peas</i> , do. to Jonas Ball, Pittsfield, Cup,	12
<i>Flax</i> , do. to Zachariah Pierson, Richmond, Cup,	12
<i>Cheese</i> , best quality, made in 1815, not less than 200lbs. to James Barker, Lanesborough, Cup,	12

* Late President of the Society.

<i>Cheese</i> , best quality, made in 1814, not less than 200lbs. to	
Benjamin C. Perkins, Becket, Silver Spoons,	12
<i>Maple Sugar</i> , not in lump, best grained and colour, not less	
than 100lbs., Job Kittredge, Hinsdale, Cup,	12

Your Committee would further state, that the President of the Society authorized them, in cases where, in their opinion, it might be expedient, to award secondary premiums, to consist of a valuable book, (which ought, perhaps, to be in the possession of every farmer) entitled the *Farmer's Assistant*, lately published in the State of New-York.*

Secondary Premiums are awarded to the following persons, viz.

Charles Goodrich, jun. of Pittsfield, for the second best acre of Wheat.

James Barker, of Lanesborough, for the second best acre of Rye.

John Farnum, of Lanesborough, for the second best acre of Oats.

Isaac Manchester, of Cheshire, for the second best acre of Barley.

Caleb Bentley, of Pittsfield, for the second best acre of Indian Corn.

Thomas B. Strong, of Pittsfield for the second best acre of Flax.

We have also been specially required to award the same premium to the farmer whose buildings, fences, farming utensils, and other conveniences thereunto appertaining, exhibited the best appearance.

Joel Bradley, of Lanesborough, showed us the best regulated farm, buildings, fences, stock and other conveniences considered.

Your committee request the indulgence of the Society to some general as well as particular remarks, which, in our opinion, may be useful in promoting the agricultural interest generally, and in this section of the country especially.

We feel happy in saying, that we discovered a general spirit of industry and emulation throughout that section of the county we visited, and extremely lament that we were so limited in our viewing tour, there being no applications for premiums south of the town of Lenox.

Your committee believe, that within a short period, great improvements have been made in the general face of the country, and in the fences in particular. In many places we observed post and wall fences lately erected to a considerable extent; this mode of fencing not only adds much to the beauty of our farms, but affords a greater degree of security to our crops than that of any other mode we have seen adopted; besides, it is extremely durable, a circumstance which should induce every farmer, who is possessed of the materials, to build it; it being well understood that our wooden materials for fencing are not only scarce, but extremely perishable.

* A valuable Work, by J. Nicholson, Esq. of Herkimer, N. Y.

In many places we observed maple trees recently planted. If this practice should become general, it would not only add much to the beauty of our farms, but will in time greatly increase our quantity of fuel, and succeeding generations may be amply supplied with sugar from the sap.

Your committee also noticed, in many places, whole orchards of apple trees apparently in a state of decline, where, we presume, the decay is not the effect of age. The cause of this decline, we believe, is not perfectly understood. We would suggest to the Society the expediency of offering a premium for the best essay on the subject of promoting the growth of apple trees.

We also discovered a growing attention to saving and manufacturing manure; a growing attention is also visible to the creating of compost manure, which will ultimately become more useful as our farms become more exhausted by continual use. We all know the value of manure; we also know that little attention has been bestowed upon it until within a few years.

From the creation to the first settlement of our country, vegetation was left to rot on the surface to fertilize the earth; constant cropping for a long course of years, with no returns, must exhaust the native soil; hence the necessity of creating or saving manure to keep the earth in heart; by the use of marl or lime, continued with a rotation of crops, as practised in old countries, or ploughing-in green crops. To enlarge on each of these points, would swell our report beyond its limits.

Permit us, however, to recommend particular attention to the following subject. Plaster, so much used in the State of N. York, appears, as yet, to be imperfectly understood with us—Lime, so much used in Pennsylvania, still less; we should undoubtedly give them both a fair trial, and report experiments to the Society, for general information. To multiply, at convenient seasons, large quantities of compost manure, is within the reach of every farmer; and we find ourselves richly paid for the labour we bestow upon it. Shell Marl is said to be the best of all manure; it is said that large bodies of it have lately been discovered in different parts of this country; the present season will probably afford some experiments of its value.

Your committee state with much regret, that it is well understood that the funds of the Society are very inadequate to its support; and after seeing the great advantages resulting to the agricultural interest from its establishment, we cannot but hope (should the legislature fail to give the aid we may reasonably expect) that a continuance of annual subscriptions will still enable the Society to exist.

All of which is submitted for the consideration of the Society.

NATHAN WILLIS,

Chairman of the Viewing Committee of Agriculture.

To THOMAS MELVILL, Jun. Esq.

President of the Berkshire Agricultural Society.

MANUFACTURES.

TO THOMAS MELVILL, Jun. Esq.

President of the Berkshire Agricultural Society.

SIR—We, the undersigned, having been appointed a committee to award Premiums on articles of Domestic Manufacture, have attended to the duty assigned us, and beg leave *before we make a special report of our doings*, to premise, that all the articles exhibited on this occasion are highly honorable to the industry and ingenuity of all those who have thought proper to exhibit them for inspection. Indeed, among a great variety of specimens of American manufactures, all deserving great commendation and *special encouragement*, it is but fair to notice a Hearth-Rug, which justly deserves great applause, as being one of the best imitations of the most elegant foreign articles of that description that the committee have ever observed—also, a set of Knives and Forks, executed in a style of workmanship which we believe at present unequalled in this country. And we take pleasure in particularizing many other specimens of elegance and usefulness, such as Stockings, Diapers, Blankets, Coverlids, and Carpeting. And we also take pleasure in noticing a very liberal and elegant display of Needle-Work and Paintings, executed and exhibited by the Ladies; these specimens were numerous and of rare taste. But, as highly deserving as all these articles are, of honorary rewards and premiums, still, the rules laid down for the direction of the committee, make it their duty to award the Society's premiums as follows.

All which is respectfully submitted.

EBENEZER CENTER, *Chairman*

Pittsfield, Oct. 3, 1815.

- Cloth, finest spun and best manufactured, superfine, any colour, 3-4 or 6-4 wide, within the lists, 25 yds. 3-4 wide, or 15 yds. 6-4 wide, to Dimmis Weller, Pittsfield, set Table Spoons, \$ 20
- Do. 2d best piece, and colour, do. to Roxanna Clark, Pittsfield, Tea Spoons, 8
- Do. finest spun, and best manufactured piece from common wool, any colour, same dimensions as the foregoing, to Abigail Backus, Pittsfield, Tea Spoons, 8
- Do. 2d best, do. any colour, to Elena Hazard, Pittsfield, Tea Spoons, 8
- Bombazette, Plaid, or any other kind of Worsted Cloth, finest spun and best manufactured from combed wool, 25 yds. 3-4 wide, to Sally K. Sage, Sandisfield, Tea Spoons, 8
- Flannel, finest spun and best manufactured from Merino wool, 3-4 wide, within the lists, 25 yds. long, to Rachel Childs, Pittsfield, Cream Pot, 10
- Do. do. from common wool, to Elizabeth Stearns, Pittsfield, Tea Spoons, 8

<i>Carpeting</i> , best piece, as to quality and colour, (all wool) 1 yard wide, and 25 yards long, to Sophia Brown, Pittsfield, Sugar Bowl,	15
<i>Blankets</i> , best pair and best imitation, (as to manufacture) of the English Rose Blankets, at least 9-4 wide, no seam, to Rachel Childs, Pittsfield, Sugar Bowl,	15
Do. best do. 8-4 do. to Polly S. Ashley, Pittsfield, Tea Spoons,	8
Do. best do. 6-4 wide, to Elizabeth Stearns, Pittsfield, Tea Spoons,	8
<i>Linen</i> , best and finest piece, 7-8 wide, 25 yds. long, to Hul- dah Brown, Pittsfield, Set Table Spoons,	20
<i>To three articles</i> , the manufacture of which shall, in the opin- ion of the Committee of Awards, merit encouragement, and especially such as might tend to introduce a new branch of manufacture, and useful to the community, a set of Tea Spoons, each of the value of 38.	
Polly Cone, W. Stockbridge, Diaper Table Cloth, Spoons,	8
Electa Strong, Pittsfield, Bed Blanket, do,	8
Rachel Bissel, do. Worsted Stockings, do.	8
— Woodward, for dressing the best piece domestic man- ufactured fine cloth, as to color and finish, Silver Cup,	10
Hezekiah F Bosworth for dressing 2d best do. do. Cup,	8
<i>Broad Cloth</i> , for the best piece superfine blue Broad Cloth, dyed in the wool, at least 18 yds. manufactured in any of the New-England States, to Isaac Curtis & Co, Stock- bridge, Silver Bowl,	30
Do. 2d best do, to Sally Perkins, Becket, Cup,	12

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

<i>Bulls</i> , the best between 1 and 4 years old, to William Brad- ley, Lanesborough, Cup,	10
Do. 2d best do. to Justus Wheeler, Lanesborough, Spoons,	8
<i>Oxen</i> , working the preceding winter, and grass fed, four years old and upwards, age considered, to Levi Hinsdale, of Hinsdale, Spoons,	11
Do. 2d best do. to James Foot, Spoons,	8
<i>Working Oxen</i> , do. do. to Charles Burlingham, Lanesbo- rough, Cup,	10
Do. 2d best do. do. to Asa Pierce, Hinsdale, Spoons,	10
<i>Cows</i> , the best Cow for dairy, to Benjamin C. Perkins, Beck- et, Cup,	10
Do. 2d best do. for do. to Jonathan Allen, 2d. Pittsfield, Spoons,	8
<i>Three-Year-Olds</i> , the two best, to Benjamin Lewis, West- Stockbridge, Cup,	8
Do. the two 2d best, to Edward Roberts, Dalton, Spoons,	6
<i>Two-Year-Olds</i> , the two best, to Ebenezer Cole, Cup,	8
Do. the two 2d best, to Edward Roberts, Dalton, Spoons,	6
<i>Yearlings</i> , the two best, to Nathan Webb, Pittsfield, Cup,	8

<i>Calves</i> , the best Spring Calf, to Joseph Shearer, Esq. Pittsfield, Cup,	8
<i>Full-blood Merino Ewes</i> , the best 5, to Jonathan Allen, Esq. Pittsfield, Cup,	10
Do. the 2d best do. to Thomas B. Strong, Pittsfield, Spoons,	6
<i>Full-blood Merino Buck</i> , the best, to Elkanah Watson, Esq. Pittsfield, Cup,	10
Do. 2d best do. to Thomas B. Strong, Pittsfield, Spoons,	8
<i>Full-blood Lamb, Buck and Ewe</i> , the best, to Samuel D. Colt, Pittsfield, Cup,	10
<i>Swine</i> , the best pair, male and female, to Gardner Sloan, Pittsfield, Cup,	10
<i>Cattle</i> , best stock, not less than 20 head, owned by the candidate six months preceding the 29th September, 1815, to Erastus Sacket, Pittsfield, Cup,	10

'A word to the Brewers, and to the Public. The Bowel complaints, so rife at present, are attributed by many of the most eminent members of the Medical Faculty in this kingdom, to the use of that deleterious drug called quassia, as a substitute for hops in beer. There can be no good reason why the above pernicious drug should not be totally banished from our Breweries. This ought to become the care of the administration, as well as of the Parliament, which has, with a just regard to our national interests, created severe penalties against the use of quassia, and sundry other articles still much used in defiance of the laws. As to all exported Beers, it is notoriously known that hops are the only certain preventative against their turning sour in warm weather. Let us no longer hear the infamous tale that quassia is only used in Beers designed for exportation, then, unless we are willing to poison our foreign customers, forfeit our character for honor and honesty, rob the revenue, and lose an important branch of trade. Will the people of this country believe that those who would be the means of this, would not make some traffic with conscience and their oaths, in supplying their British customers? Depend upon it they would, they do: and that it is the duty alike of the proper officers, and of every honest man, to expose and put a stop to this abominable fraud. The man who would injure thus a foe, by defrauding him, would not stop to do the same to a friend—and, thank God, they have no longer even the plea that has been urged: our foreign customers have become our friends, by treaties of peace and amity. Let us suppose, for once, that these and similar observations cross the Atlantic, and excite, through the medium of their numerous Gazettes, the notice of our American Customers—would they still buy your Beers as usual? And what would they think of your honesty? The Americans are sufficiently disposed, already, to reject our manufactures, by substituting their own. Nor will the example of the present year afford ground for contradiction to this opinion. It was not that the people were so greedy for British manufactures, that has made that country so good a market of late; but that the merchants and traders covet the gains of trade, and the advantages they have obtained by length of credits. A year or two more will explain this fully—not, however, in consequence of any thing we may say, but by sad experience. Mark this well.

Brit. Journal.

'Beer again. Several barrels of Porter, supposed to contain a poisonous mixture, intended as a substitute for hops, were some days since seized by the Borough, and they are now deposited in the Excise Office, for the purpose of being fully and fairly analyzed.

London paper.

A New Comet. Extract of a Letter to the Editor.

The substance of the following Letter was undoubtedly intended for our Readers—but for subjoining the name of our distinguished Friend and Correspondent, we have to solicit his indulgence. Knowing well, as we do, to appreciate the talents and acquirements of Professor Wallace, we greet his appearance in our pages with the highest satisfaction. And we know, too, that the estimation in which he is held by the learned in Europe, must assure to him a valuable correspondence, and a prompt communication of whatever is most rare and interesting in the constant disclosures of the schools of science and the liberal arts, in the Old World. From such sources, we are anxious to draw often for our Readers.

But why must we apologise for using the Name of this Correspondent, but because fashion has prescribed the form of anonymous publication? If fashion has done this, it is because that almost all we publish in this country, is the product of party or political controversy;—of much, and indeed the most of which, the writers would be ashamed, if accompanied with their real names. Let party, then, enjoy its sports in its own way, and by only planting daggers from unseen hands, cherish the assassin-policy which it seems to delight in;—but let science, let knowledge, which are of no party, avoid this fashion, and furnish a better example. We publish too much under this guise, in this country, but whether too little without it, is more than we can determine. And we invite as many of our Correspondents as can reconcile the practice with their ideas of prudence, to authorize the use of their names, or at least the initial letters, a growing practice, entitled to commendation.

EDITOR.

Georgetown College, D. C. Nov. 7th, 1815.

Friend Spafford,

Dr. Olbers of Bremen, the famous discoverer of the planets *Pallas* and *Vesta*, has had the politeness lately to furnish us with the Elements of a late Comet discovered by him on the 6th March, 1815. The Elements have been calculated by two eminent Astronomers, respectively, the one a Mr. Nicholas at Paris, the other a Mr. Bessel at Seeberg. Their calculations have been founded on Dr. Olbers' observations. I herewith send you an extract of the Doctors' own account with the result of the calculations, thinking you might wish to communicate them to the public through the medium of your useful Magazine.

"*Pauca jam de novissimis in cælo sideris phenominis addere liceat. Die 6to Martii hujus anni parvus cometa se mihi, cæsum in nocturno perfrustranti, obtulit; qui aucto sensim lumine, fixus tamen unquam nisi armatis oculis conspicuus; Perseum, pedes Camelopardi, et caput Lyncis permigravit, deinde rursus decrescens, cursum per Ursam Majorem et Canes Venaticas deflexit; et quem ultima vice, debilem valde, obscurum ac quasi expiran-*

The President of the College, Rev. John Grassi, and myself.

tem cum stellis comæ Berenices, die 13 Julii observavi. Tunc enim iter, valetudinis causa ad ipsum fontem aquarum medicatarum Pyramontensium suscipiendum ulterius cometam prosecui, prohibuit. Quod hunc cometam prorsus insignem et maxime memorabilem reddit, est ejus orbita: ellipsis scilicet, a parabola multum discrepans, vana et irrita erant omnia tentamina, observationes cometæ cum orbita parabolica conciliandi: mox ad ellipsin confugere oportuit, et non sine admiratione multo minorem excentricitatem et breviorē axin majorem, quam vulgo cometis convenire solent, huic competere didicimus. Nondum prorsus absoluti sunt omnes calculi: sed jam tuto predicare possumus; tempus periodicum hujus cometæ a 73 annis non multum aberraturum esse, et ut meliori adhuc jure, quam celebris ille cometa Halleyi, cometarum quasi mercurius dici possit. En elementa orbitæ hujus cometæ, a clarissimo Bessel observatorii Regiomontani directoræ, et clar. Nicolai, in Specula (observatory) Scebbergensi assistantis munere fungente, ex meissopotissimum observationibus calculata,

BESSEL.

NICOLAI.

Tempus Perihelii, 1815, April 26.01057 Seeberg:—April 26.03857 Paris.	
Elongatio Ω $88^{\circ} 27' 36'' .6$ $83^{\circ} 28' 52'' .3$	
Inclinatio Orbitæ $44 \ 29 \ 8 \ .1$ $44 \ 29 \ 46 \ .0$	
Longitudo Perihel. $149 \ 2 \ 24 \ .8$ $149 \ 3 \ 25 \ .3$	
Log. dist. Perihel. 0.0837829 0.0837490	
Semixaxis major 17.4675 17.39704	
Eccentricitas (posita semi- axis mg. = 1) } 0.9305893 0.93029346	
Tempus Periodicum 73.0039 Ann. jul. 72.564 Ann. jul.	
Motus directus.	

Veterius adhuc hæc elementa per ultimas observationes corrigenda esse, jam monui: mutationes item non nisi leviores orbitam, iterabo calculo correctam subituram esse, consensus observationum cum traditis elementis docet, a quibus rarissime ultra $30''$ aberrant."

This Comet, as the celebrated Doctor observes, being the mercury of Comets, from the shortness of its periodic revolution, becomes the more interesting; and still more so as its elements are determined by men of such known ability, and furnished with means so adequate to this task.

I remain, with sentiments of esteem, yours sincerely,

J. WALLACE.

TRANSLATION.

We may now add one more to the late discoveries in Astronomy. On the 6th of March last, while examining the Heavens, I discovered a small Comet. It was scarcely visible to the naked eye. Its course was through Perseus, the feet of Camelopardus, and the head of the Lynx;—and, with decreasing light, it bent its way through Ursa Major, and Canes Venaticæ. The last time I observed it was July 13;—it was then very obscure, and almost invisible among the stars of Comæ Berenices. A journey for my health to the waters of Pyrmont, prevented my observing the Comet any longer. What renders this Comet very remarkable, is its Orbit, which is an ellipse, differing much from a parabola. Vain were all attempts to reconcile

the observations of this Comet, with a parabolic Orbit. I was obliged to have recourse to the ellipse—and found, not without much surprise, its eccentricity much less, and its lesser axis much greater, than generally belong to Comets. All the calculations are not entirely completed: but we may safely affirm that the periodical time of this Comet does not differ much from 73 years;—and that it can more justly than the Comet of the celebrated Halley, be called the Mercury of Comets. The following are the Elements of this Comet, calculated from my observations, by Mr. Bessel of Seeberg, and Mr. Nicholas of Paris.

	Mr. BESSEL.	Mr. NICHOLAS.
Time of its Perihelion, 1815, April 26.01057 Seeberg.—April 26.03857 Paris		
Elongation of $\odot$	83° 27' 36".6	83° 28' 52".3
Inclination of its Orbit, ...	44 29 8 .1	44 29 46 .0
Longitude of Perihelion, ...	149 2 24 .8	149 3 25 .3
Logarithm distance of Perihelion, ...	0.0837829	0.0837490
Greater Semi-axis, ...	17.4675	17.39704
Eccentricity, (semi-axis = 1)	0.9305893	0.93099845
Periodical time, ...	73.0039 Julian Year.	72.564 Jul. Y.

Motion direct.

These Elements are to be corrected by the later observations. The agreement of observations with the above elements, from which they seldom differ more than 30', prove that its Orbit will undergo but small changes.

FOR THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

The following article, copied from Bell's Quarterly Volume of News, [London] of March 1, 1802, is worth preserving.

In addition to the many attempts that have been made to construct carriages to run without horses, a method has lately been tried at Camborne, in the County of Cornwall, that seems to promise success. A carriage has been constructed, containing a small steam-engine, the force of which was found sufficient on trial, to impell the carriage, containing several persons, amounting at least to a ton and a half weight, against a hill of considerable steepness, at the rate of 4 miles an hour. Upon a level road, it ran at the rate of 8 or 9 miles an hour. We have our information from an intelligent and respectable man, who was in the carriage at the time; and who entertains a strong persuasion of the success of the project. The projectors are now in London, soliciting a patent to secure the property. *Palmouth Packet.*

A Solemn Review of the Custom of War; showing that War is the effect of popular delusion, and proposing a remedy.

"A glorious success, quietly obtained, is more profitable than the dangers of a battle; for we ought to esteem those who do what is agreeable to temperance and prudence, no less glorious than those who have gained great reputation by their actions in war." *Vespasian.*

(Continued from page 157.)

SECTION III.

"Shall the sword devour forever?"

In favor of war several pleas will probably be made.

First, Some will plead that the Israelites were permitted and even commanded to make war on the inhabitants of Canaan. To this it may be answered, that the giver and arbiter of life had a right, if he pleased, to make use of the savage customs of the age, for punishing guilty nations. If any government of the present day should receive a commission to make war, as the Israelites did, let the order be obeyed. But until they have such a commission, let it not be imagined that they can innocently make war.

As a farther answer to this plea, we have to observe, that God has given encouragement, that under the reign of the Messiah, there shall be such a time of peace, "that nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Micah, iv. 3. If this prediction shall ever

be fulfilled, the present delusion in favor of war must be done away. How then are we to expect the way will be prepared for the accomplishment of the prediction? Probably this is not to be done by miraculous agency, but by the blessing of God on the benevolent exertions of individuals to open the eyes of their fellow mortals, in respect to the evils and delusions of war, and the blessings of peace. Those who shall be the instruments of producing so important a change in the views of men, will be in an eminent sense "peace-makers," and will be entitled to the appellation and privileges of "the sons of God." How much more glorious the achievement, to conquer the prejudices and delusions of men on this subject by kindness and reason, than to conquer the world by the edge of the sword!

A second plea in favor of the custom of war may be this—that war is an advantage to a nation, as it usually takes off many vicious and dangerous characters. But does not war make two such characters for every one it removes? Is it not in fact the greatest school of depravity, and the greatest source of mischievous and dangerous characters that ever existed among men? Does not a state of war lower down the standard of morality in a nation, so that a vast portion of common vice is scarcely observed as evil? Let any one who was old enough to observe the state of morals prior to our revolution, ask himself, what was the effect of that war on the morals of New-England?

Besides, is it not awful to think of sending vicious men beyond the means of reformation, and the hope of repentance! When they are sent into the army, what is this but consigning them to a state where they will rapidly fill up the measure of their iniquity, and become "fitted to destruction!"

Thirdly, It will be pleaded that no substitute for war can be devised, which will insure to a nation a redress of wrongs. In reply we may ask, Is it common for a nation to obtain a redress of wrongs by war? As to redress, do not the wars of nations resemble boxing at a tavern, when both the combatants receive a terrible bruising, then drink a mug of flip together and make peace; each, however, bearing for a long time the marks of his folly and madness? A redress of wrongs by war is so uncommon, that unless revenge is redress, and multiplied injuries satisfaction, we should suppose that none but madmen would run the hazard.

But if the eyes of the people could be opened in regard to the evils and delusions of war, would it not be easy to form a confederacy of nations, and organize a high court of equity, to decide national controversies? Why might not such a court be composed of some of the most eminent characters from each nation; and a compliance with the decision of the court be made a point of national honour to prevent the effusion of blood, and to preserve the blessings of peace? Can any considerate person say, that the probability of obtaining right in such a court, would be less than by an appeal to arms? When an individual appeals to a court of justice for the redress of wrongs, it is not always the case that he obtains his right. Still such an appeal is more honourable, more safe and more certain, as well as more benevolent, than for the individual to attempt to obtain a redress by his pistol or his sword. And are not the reasons for avoiding an appeal to the sword, for the redress of wrongs, always great in proportion to the calamities which such an appeal must naturally involve? If this be a fact, then there is infinitely greater reason, why two nations should avoid an appeal to arms, than usually exists against a bloody combat between two contending individuals.

In the fourth place it may be urged, that a spirit of forbearance on the part of a national government, would operate as an invitation to repeated insult and aggression.

But is this plea founded on facts and experience? Does it accord with what is well known of human nature? Who are the persons in society that most frequently receive insult and abuse? Are they the meek, the benevolent and the forbearing? Do these more commonly have reason to complain, than persons of quick resentment, who are ready to fight on the least provocation?

There are two sects of professed Christians in this country, which, as sects,

are peculiar in their opinions respecting the lawfulness of war, and the right of repelling injury by violence. These are the Quakers and the Shakers. They are remarkably pacific. Now we ask, does it appear from experience that their forbearing spirit, brings on them a greater portion of injury and insult than what is experienced by people of other sects? Is not the reverse of this true in fact? There may, indeed, be some instances of such gross depravity, as a person's taking advantage of their pacific character, to do them injury, with the hope of impunity. But in general it is believed, their pacific principles and spirit, command the esteem even of the vicious, and operate as a shield from insult and abuse.

The question may be brought home to every society. How seldom do children of a mild, forbearing temper experience insult or injury compared with the waspish, who will sting if touched? The same inquiry may be made in respect to persons of these opposite descriptions of every age, and in every situation of life; and the result will be favorable to the point in question.

Should any deny the applicability of these examples to national rulers, we have the pleasure of being able to produce one example, which is undeniably applicable.

When William Penn took the government of Pennsylvania, he distinctly avowed to the Indians his forbearing and pacific principles, and his benevolent wishes for uninterrupted peace with them. On these principles the government was administered, while it remained in the hands of the Quakers. What then was the effect? Did this pacific character in government invite aggression and insult? Let the answer be given in the language of the *Edinburgh Review of the Life of William Penn*. Speaking of the treaty made by Penn with the Indians, the Reviewer says;—

“Such indeed was the spirit in which the negotiation was entered into, and the corresponding settlement conducted, that for the space of more than *seventy years*—and so long indeed as the Quakers retained the chief power in the government, the peace and amity which had been thus solemnly promised and concluded, never was violated; and a large though solitary example afforded, of the facility with which they, who are really sincere and friendly in their views may live in harmony with those who are supposed to be peculiarly fierce and faithless.”

Shall then this “solitary” but successful “example” never be imitated? “Shall the sword devour forever?”

(To be continued.)

Journal of a Captivity and short abode in Brazil.

(Continued from page 162.)

August 13.—The commandant sent to request me to visit a sick man in the village below the town. I went, accompanied by a soldier; and the patient proved to be Sr. Rodriguez de Fonta, of whom I had some knowledge. He was yesterday seized with an apoplectic fit, and I found him now very ill; in short, his end seemed nearly approaching. On the top part of the bedstead were placed several small images, a leg and foot, a small sword, with others relics, and a twisted wooden wreath was suspended constantly over him; the whole forming a most curious mixture of sickness, stupidity, and superstition. The chamber was immensely hot and close; and I was happy to get away.

August 14.—Rodriguez died before midnight; and the bells this day have kept a constant noise, preparing for his interment. About eight it took place. The banner of the church, surmounted with a large silver cross, went first, followed by smaller silver crosses, and the principal inhabitants of the town (about a hundred and fifty), each carrying a wax light, with three priests, church choristers, music, &c. The body lay open in the coffin, with the face exposed; and dressed in the grey habit of a Franciscan, with his cord, &c. At intervals the procession stopped, and mementoes with full chorus were sung.

The stillness of the night; the solemn dirge, stealing on the ear, and responding from the vale and hanging hill of St. Francis, made the scene particularly interesting.

August 15.—Solicited permission to take the air with my companion. At four in the afternoon, the linguist came to accompany us, as a guard. We took a walk to the sweet valley, once of the Franciscans; which from every point of view is elegantly delightful. Returning by the sea cliff, we passed the town, and crossed the hill which descends to the interior village; where we sat admiring the almost unbounded scenery of the distant country around, and the vale below. The departing sun's rays were reflected on the windings of the river; which was strongly contrasted with the dark impenetrable woods through which it rolled its course, losing itself in the west.

16th.—Our sentinels have been sometimes soldiers, and sometimes inhabitants, both regularly relieved. This day we had for guard an ancient of full ninety years, but whose faculties were the most vigorous and lively of any old man's I ever saw; his eyes retained all their fire, his step was tolerably strong, and his pulse full and regular (which is not always found even in the youth of this relaxing climate!) He was cheerful, and chatted with me, though forbid; repeating many anecdotes of the town and settlement in his younger days; and, like most old people, crying, how much superior they were to the present; though, in justice to the old man, I must declare his remark is not unfounded respecting Porto Seguro, there being evident marks of neglect and decay.

17th.—Information came from Pranguessa, of the Indians having yesterday been in the skirts of the woods near the village, and shot two Mulattoes: one, with an arrow, in the thigh; and another in the breast, who fell, and was instantly massacred. His companion was wounded in the arm and back, but escaped; though it was for the moment only, as he died the same day. Ten muskets, with powder and ball, were directly sent, for the inhabitants to defend themselves.

The bows of these Indians are similar to the English long bow; about six feet six inches in length, strong made, of a ponderous wood, but particularly elastic, and strung with a dried sinew of an animal, or sometimes a prepared cotton cord. Their arrows are three and four feet in length, well feathered, and consist of one piece of light wood: the points of the larger sort are simply the arrow tapered, and afterwards notched for about eight inches, to prevent its easy extraction; the shorter have a broad scoop head, about four inches long, and one broad in the centre part of it, tapering each way to its point, and where it joins the stem; this head is concaved to a sharp edge, and is a fatal weapon. They harden both heads in the fire; and though the whole arrow feels very light, and appears insufficient to pierce at any distance, yet it kills at nearly as great a distance as an European musket.

August 18 to 24.—The commission, at seizure of the brig, were accompanied by a guard of about twenty soldiers; probably conceiving it a dangerous business, although our only arms were two rusty muskets. These soldiers have since been employed in guarding the prison; which has filled so rapidly, that a reinforcement was ordered, together with dried beef, and other provisions, the sudden influx of such a number of people having caused a temporary famine in the town.

On the 20th, a vessel arrived with forty soldiers, and supplies; and the second day after, the whole military marched to mass, preceded by a drum. Men, women, and children, flocked from all quarters, as these passed. Not even the finest procession could have attracted a greater number than this novelty; such a sight never being remembered in Porto Seguro by the oldest inhabitant.

The commandant having violently sprained his thigh on horseback, sent for me; and I took the opportunity, while out, of endeavouring to convey a letter (which I found means to write) to my friends in Britain; but I am very doubtful of its ever arriving in safety.

25th.—The ignorance and rudeness of the inhabitants are amazing. The captain, Mor, who has superior apartments in the prison, takes the liberty of running into mine, without excuse; not considering the situation of my companion and myself, confined to a small room, and who do not at all hours chuse such visitors. The judge ordinary, or magistrate of the town, daily visits the prison, and uses the same freedom; this morning he presented us with a basket of eggs, begged a silk handkerchief in return, and, whilst talking on the subject, reached a clothes brush from the wall, and, *sans ceremonie*, brushed his hat in our faces.

The very dress of the men (particularly in the morning) is shocking to a person of the commonest delicacy. They promenade the prison in a thin pair of calico drawers that scarce reach the knee, with the shirt loose over them, and no stockings or hat; if cool or rainy weather, they sometimes have the addition of a cloak or bed-gown loosely wrapt round them. In short, maugre every exertion of patience, our situation is miserable; and most gladly shall I hail the happy day of our arrival in a land of decency.

August 26 to 29.—The minister Claudio arrived with six prisoners from Carevellos, the chief inhabitants; consisting of the judge ordinary, treasurer, and members of senate; dragged from their homes for disobeying the military orders of a lieutenant, sent, by the governor of Bahia, for the better regulating the export of farinha.

August 30th.—The Carevellos gentlemen have so general an acquaintance, that their extensive room (the largest in the prison) is crowded the whole day, and sometimes nearly all night. The only table is eternally surrounded with card parties; another group conversing or disputing; some eating on a chest, and their slaves huddled in a corner. All this creates such a miserable confusion, and perpetual buzzing, that it gives us a constant head-ache. The life of these men is a specimen of the coast in general. In their eating, abstinent to extreme: yet not actuated thereto by appetite or temperance, but sheer avarice. Here they eat scarcely any regular meals, but severally help themselves as their stomach or caprice dictates; the food being chiefly farinha; a little soup, or fish liquor, to moisten it; with a morsel of meat, or salt or fresh fish, when to be procured cheap. In their sleeping, they observe the same irregularity; some of them being on their trundle bedsteads and mats the whole day; while others are up all night at their only employment, cards.

(To be continued.)

CLAUDINE.

A Swiss Tale. From the French of M. De Florian.

(Continued from page 200.)

"About that time strangers began to visit our Glaciers. A young Englishman of the name of Belton, the son of a rich merchant of London, in passing through Geneva to go to Italy, had the curiosity to make the tour of Chamouny. He stopped at Madame de Couteran's,* and the next day, at 4 o'clock in the morning, he ascended Montanverd to see the frozen sea, conducted by my brother Michael, who is now deacon of the guides. He returned about eleven and rested himself as we do by the side of this fountain, when Claudine, who tended her sheep just by, seeing him very much heated, came to offer the fruit and milk she had for her dinner. The Englishman thanked her, looked at her very attentively, and offered her five or six guineas, which Claudine refused; but poor Claudine did not refuse to take Mr. Belton to see her flock, which she had left among these lofty trees. He desired the guide to wait for him, and departed with Claudine. He was absent for two long hours. As to the sequel of their conversation, I cannot indeed repeat it to you, as nobody heard it. It is sufficient to know that Mr. Belton set out the same evening, and that Claudine, on her return home to her father, appeared pensive and melancholy, and had on her finger a beautiful emerald which the

* The well-known name of the mistress of the most ancient Inn at Chamouny.

Englishman had given her. Her sister asked her where she got that ring : Claudine answered that she had found it. Simon, with a discontented air, took the ring and carried it to Madame de Couteran, in order to discover the person who had lost it. No traveller ever claimed it. Mr. Belton was already far off, and Claudine, to whom the emerald was returned, became every day more melancholy.

"Five or six months thus passed away. Claudine, who every evening returned with reddened eyes, at length resolved to confide in her sister Nanette. She confessed that the day she met Mr. Belton on Montanverd, Mr. Belton had told her that he was in love with her—that he meant to settle in Chamouny, never more to leave it, and marry her. "I believed it," added Claudine, "for he swore it to me more than an hundred times. He said, that business obliged him to return to Geneva; but that in a fortnight he would again be here; that he would buy a house, and that our marriage should take place immediately. He sat down beside me, embraced me, called me his wife, and gave me this beautiful ring as a token of our marriage. I dare not tell you any more, my sister, but I have many fears; I am very ill; I weep all day; in vain do I fix my eyes on the road to Geneva, there is no appearance of Mr. Belton."

"Nanette, who was just married, pressed poor Claudine with questions. At length, after many tears, she learned that the Englishman had basely betrayed this simple and unhappy girl, and that Claudine was with child.

"What was to be done? How was it possible to announce this misfortune to the terrible M. Simon? To conceal it from him was impossible. The good Nanette did not augment the despair of her sister by useless reproaches; she even endeavoured to console her, by expressing hopes of a pardon which she knew would not be obtained. After long consideration Nanette, with her consent, went to find our good curate, and confided in him the whole secret—begged of him to mention it to her father—to endeavour to appease his wrath, and try to save the honour, or at least, the life of the unhappy victim of deceit. Our curate was much hurt at the news; he, however, undertook the task, and repaired to the house of Simon at the time when he was sure Claudine would be upon Montanverd.

"Simon was as usual, reading the Old Testament. Our good curate sat down by him, and began to talk of the beautiful stories which are contained in that divine book; he dwelt particularly on that of Joseph when he pardons his brethren—on that of the great king David, when he pardons his son Absalom, and many others I do not know, but are well-known to the curate.—Simon was of the same opinion. The curate said, that God had given us those examples of mercy, that we in like manner, being compassionate, to others, might, at the last day, expect to find mercy from the Father of All. All this was said in a much better manner than I can tell it you; but you may easily conceive that our curate endeavoured to prepare the old man for the reception of his bad news. He was long of comprehending him—at last he did, and starting up, pale, and trembling with rage, he seized the musket with which he used to hunt the chamois, and was rushing forth to kill his daughter. The curate threw himself upon him, and disarmed him; and by rousing his attention to the duties of a christian, by lamenting his misfortune, and sharing in his grief, he at length prevailed so far, that old Simon, whose eyes had been hitherto dry, his lips pale, and his whole frame convulsed, sunk back into his chair, covered his face with his two hands, and burst into tears.

"The curate allowed him to weep for some time without saying a word; at length he wished to consult with him relative to the measures it was necessary to take, in order to save the honour of Claudine;—but Simon interrupted him. "Master Curate," said he, "it is impossible to save that which is lost; every means that we could take would render us more culpable by obliging us to tell lies. The unhappy wretch must no longer remain here; she would be the scandal of us all, and the punishment of her father; let her be gone, Master Curate; let her live, since infamy can live, but let me die far distant from her; let her depart this very day; she must leave this coun-

try, and never let her again present herself before my gray hairs, which she has dishonoured."

"The curate tried to soften Simon, but his efforts were in vain. Simon repeated the positive order for the departure of Claudine. Our good old curate was going away in sadness, when the old man ran after him, brought him back into his apartment, and shut the door; then putting into his hands an old purse of leather, containing fifty crowns, "Master Curate," said he, "this wretch will be in want of every thing. Give her these 50 crowns, not as from me, beware of that, but as a charity from yourself. Tell her, that it is the goods of the poor, which compassion induces you to bestow on vice;—and if you could write to any one in her favour, or give her a letter of recommendation—I know your goodness, and I neither wish to hear or to speak any more about her."

"The curate answered him by a squeeze of the hand, then ran to meet Nanette, who was waiting for him in the street, more dead than alive. "Go instantly," said he, "and pack up all your sister's clothes, and bring them to my house." She obeyed with tears in her eyes, being but too sure of what had happened, and put into Claudine's bundle the little money she was mistress of. She then returned to the Curate, who related to her the conversation he had with Simon, and gave her a long letter for the Curate of Salenches, and said to her, "My dear child, you must this very day conduct your sister to Salenches; give her this purse, and this letter to my good brother. Accompany her to the village, and then return to your father, who has occasion for your wisdom and virtue, to lessen the chagrin produced by the conduct of your sister." Nanette, sighing, went in quest of her sister on Montanverd. She found Claudine stretched weeping on the ground; but when she heard that her departure must be immediate, she screamed and tore her hair, repeating continually, "I am banished with my father's curse!—Kill me! my sister kill me! or I will throw myself over this precipice." Gradually she became more calm, by promising that things might still be made up. At length Claudine resolved to set out, and at night-fall they took the road to Salenches, avoiding our village, where, notwithstanding the darkness, poor Claudine would have thought that every one saw her crime painted in her face.

"It was a melancholy journey, as you may easily imagine, nor did they arrive till break of day. Nanette took her leave of Claudine before they entered the village, and, after pressing her a long while to her bosom, left her, being nearly as miserable as her unhappy sister.

"As soon as Claudine found herself alone, all her courage deserted her; she hid herself in the mountain, and passed the whole day without taking any nourishment: but when the night drew on, her fears forced her towards the village, where she enquired for the house of the Curate, and knocked softly at the door, which was opened by an old housekeeper.

"Claudine said she came from M. the curate of Prières. The housekeeper led her directly to her master, who was then alone, eating his supper by the corner of his fire. Without uttering a word, or lifting her eyes, Claudine, with a trembling hand, delivered the letter, and, whilst the curate drew near the light in order to read it, the poor girl covered her face with her hands, and dropped on her knees near the door. The Curate of Salenches is a good and a worthy man, and is respected as a parent to his whole parish. When he had finished the letter, and turning his head saw this young girl on her knees, and bathed with tears, he also wept. He raised her, praised the sincerity of her repentance, gave her hopes of pardon for a fault that had cost her so many tears, and obliged her to eat in spite of her refusal, and calling in his governess, desired her to prepare a bed for Claudine."

(To be continued.)

To the Editor of the European Magazine.

SIR,

Confined to my chamber for some weeks past in consequence of a broken leg, I have had time to reflect on the rank I hold in Society as a Strolling Player, and humble indeed appears even to myself, the department I fill in the world in that character, whatever my pretensions to a better fate might be. My thoughts on that occasion, conveyed to the world through the channel of your magazine, may rescue, perhaps from misery several young people, who, it is probable, are possessed with high notions of the happiness attending on the profession of a Player.

I am, Sir, &c.

LAUR. SIDNEY.

Wackington, near Sleeford, Lincolnshire, August 24, 1792.

DISSERTATION ON THE COUNTRY STAGE.

PERHAPS no profession has more votaries, and fewer who succeed in it, than the Stage. The many requisites necessary to form a good Player have compelled the world to acknowledge, that none but such as are born with talents peculiarly adapted thereto, and those of the most splendid nature, are found to make any figure thereon. These considerations, it is presumed, should discourage the great majority of those who, prompted by overheated imaginations, conceive a propensity to the Stage; but such is its fascination, and such the wayward perverseness of human nature, that what should damp in reality serves only to inflame their desire—the difficulty of attainment, with ambitious minds, serving only to enhance the value of the object pursued. Its influence is felt by the gay and thoughtless in all places, who, despising the common occupations of life, betake themselves to this, which seems so plausibly to promise them at least a competency with pleasures:—but once launched into it, unsupported by some powerful interest, and as powerful abilities, the charm which held them is dissolved, and beneath the tinsel mask of beauty is discovered a deformed wrinkled hag, that incessantly threatens her deluded votaries with poverty and rags, together with contempt, their unflinching attendant. In vain do the most pleasing forms, the most extensive abilities, and the justest conception of their various characters, exert their united influence to attract the attention of a few injudicious people in a *Barn*, who, ignorant and inattentive of the difficulty to be met with in discovering an assemblage of such rare qualities in one person, regard the professor with the same indifference they would his fellow-labourer, the thresher, a few days after on the same spot: or should a few Ladies or Gentlemen, possessed of philanthropic minds, rising superior to illiberal prejudice and narrow penury, as I have often experienced, exert all their influence to obtain for the humble followers of the Stage, a comfortable existence, yet, such is the fatality (indeed I may say curse) attending their profession, that an accidental or natural torpor spread over the minds of the many, or a paucity in the number of the public, must inevitably defeat the generous intentions of the few in their favour. The actor on such an occasion, too proud to publish his wants, must dress his face in smiles, whilst all the horrors attendant on an empty pocket, rack his mind with the actual pain of what he now endures, and the more poignant reflection of the comfortable situation in life he too probably bartered for this treacherous and delusive one. Nor are these the only inconveniences attending the country Stage; others as prominent, though not so familiar to the world, are daily experienced by young people in their first essays thereon. If they have no abilities for the Stage, as it is more than probable they have not, they are continually exposed to the derision of the censorious, the pity of the benevolent, and the disapprobation of all. If they are possessed of powers, it will require even from the most promising, some time to mould them into form, and acquire that ease so necessary to gain upon and attract the attention of an audience; in the mean time, that spark of æthereal fire

so necessary to warm an actor and animate him in heroic parts, is slowly, and in some wholly, extinguished by the cold hand of adversity. Another difficulty young people have to combat with in many places, is the tenaciousness of most old Players and partiality to parts which, as they tell you, they have played thirty years together with applause. In vain do gray hairs and furrowed cheeks stare the audience into a conviction of the impropriety of their claim; or broken hollow voices cry from the tombs in which their youth lie buried, to dissuade the Actors from their purpose: Ambition, with her spirit-stirring drum, ear-piercing fife, brazen trump, and other numerous noisy instruments, stifles the voice of the too feeble monitor: the Stage-novice, whatever his pretensions may be, must give way to the prior and established claim of the Veteran, who in Romeo, Castalio, &c.

“Rolls his haggard eyes in spight,
“And looks delightfully with all his might;”

by such conduct throwing the young man into those parts he cannot relish or approve of, and consequently disregards too much to pay any attention to. Thus it often happens, the same person that would be a favourite in Romeo, is laughed at in Paris or Capulet; and the audience, ignorant of or inattentive to what might be the cause, leaves the theatre with the conviction of his being a *Blockhead*. Should sickness or accident incapacitate a man for weeks together, for pursuing the fortunes of the company into which chance had thrown him, the conduct of his fellow-comedians, I can *feelingly* assure him, will convince him he can have nothing to hope from their tender solicitude about him, or interposition in his favour to alleviate his misfortune. About six months after the disastrous accident mentioned in the former part of this letter befel me, Mr. P.'s Company of Comedians was playing at Stamford. I addressed Mr. P. by letter, and intrusted it to the care of a person I could confide in, soliciting his interposition with his company, to raise me a trifle of money to enable me to live independent of any application for assistance to the parish the accident happened in. Though Mr. P. had no personal knowledge of me, he expressed great concern for my situation, and, with a generosity connatural to him, immediately proposed to them to raise me something worthy my acceptance; and subscribed at the same time a sum, which for his circumstances, did honour to his humanity; but (from what motive let their own breasts inform them) not one was found to follow his example! Five weeks after, finding my strength rapidly returning, I addressed Mr. M. acting and joint manager of the Lincoln Company of Comedians, now at Spalding, a few miles from hence, describing my situation, and requesting as a favour, an engagement in his company, at whatever salary he might allow me; assuring him at the same time, I had every reason to hope he would find me very useful in such easy parts as required no violent exertion of power to support them; but Mr. M. refused me a temporary asylum in his company, in which, three months ago, hundreds of Ladies and Gentlemen in this county can witness, I might, without arrogance offer myself to stand the foremost as an actor. Thus was I left for the last twelve weeks almost wholly dependent on the public for support, which, happily for me, proved a truly liberal and benevolent one.

Thus far have I, from dear bought experience, endeavoured to describe the many inconveniences attending a passion for the stage; a passion, from what I have experienced, and daily see, the most ardent in nature next to love; happy, and more than rewarded, should my feeble endeavours rescue one inexperienced person from an imprudent, and in many places an illegal profession.

ACCOUNT OF AN AUTOMATON EXHIBITED AT VIENNA IN 1785.

The speaking automaton in London, now draws many spectators to view the extraordinary specimen of human skill: as the process employed in figures seeming to speak is well known to be effected by certain tubes which

have a communication with separate apartments, we think the action of automaton far superior to that of borrowed speech, and the following account will, we doubt not, be entertaining to our readers.

"The press to which this automaton is fixed is about three feet and an half in height. It is placed on four rollers, by means of which it can be safely transported from one place to another. Behind this press is a figure, as large as life, dressed in the Turkish habit, seated on a wooden chair, which is attached to the body of the press, and moves with it when it is wheeled into the apartment. This figure leans on its right elbow on the table, which forms the base of the press, and holds in its left hand a long Turkish pipe, and seems in the act of smoking. It is with this hand it plays, when the pipe is taken away. Before the automaton is a chess-board placed on a table. M. de Kempelen, the owner of this piece of machinery, opens the press doors, and takes out a drawer which is underneath, and the press is divided by a kind of partition in two unequal parts, that to the left is the narrowest, near three parts narrower than the other, and it is filled with wheel-work, levers, cylinders, and other pieces of clock-work; in that towards the right, are some wheels, some little barrels, with springs, and two fourths are of horizontal circles; the vacant part is filled up by a box, a cushion, and a tablet, on which are characters traced in gold. The inventor takes out the case or box, and places it on a little table near the machine; he does the same by the tablet. The front doors of the press being opened, he opens those behind, so that the wheels are all displayed, and a wax light is brought that all the crevices may be open to inspection. They then lift up the caftan of the automaton, and unbind the head, in order to display completely the interior structure, and to shew all the wheels and levers which are within the automaton, and to prove that no living being can act with more seeming intelligence. After having allowed every one to take time in examining it, they close the doors of the press, and place it behind a railing, in order to prevent the spectators from shaking the machine, by leaning on it while the automaton plays, and also to leave a place for the exhibitor to walk at his ease, as he approaches by times the press, either on the right or on the left: though without touching it except sometimes to wind up the springs. It appears difficult to conceive what communication there can possibly be between the machine and the table, or between the machine and the box, to which, however the inventor frequently has recourse during the time the automaton is at play. Many have been prompted to believe, that this box is only a stratagem to take off the attention of the spectators: but M. de Kempelen affirms, that this box is so indispensably requisite to the mechanism of his automaton, that without it it could not play, and if he should be disposed to reveal the secret, the world would soon be convinced of the truth of what he advances.

"If the automaton plays with the left hand, it is through the carelessness of the inventor. When it gives a check to the queen, it bows the head twice, and three times when it checks the king. If a false move is made, it shakes its head, repairs the fault, and continues the game.

"When the game is finished, the tablet is placed on the chess-board; and the automaton satisfies the assembly, by answering their questions, in pointing with his finger to each different letter requisite to announce his replies.

"The most able mechanists in Germany have not yet been competent to the discovery of the agent employed to direct the motions of the automaton: there is no perceptible manner of the inventor's influence on the machine. They have not failed amongst many other conjectures, to attribute it to the force of magnetism: but in order to do away that opinion, M. de Kempelen gives permission to any one to place on the machine the most well tempered and heavy loadstone they please, without fearing that this astonishing piece of mechanism will receive the least alteration."

246 Cotton Mills in Britain. Method of making Mortar.

An account of the cotton mills in Great Britain, and an estimate of the cotton manufacture of that country.

ONE hundred and forty-three COTTON MILLS are now built and in progress in Great Britain, of which nearly two thirds have been erected within these five years.

Besides these, there are above twenty thousand five hundred hand-mills, or jennies, for spinning the shute for the twisted yarn, spun by the water-mills.

The expense of water-mills, is £ 715,000

Expense of hand-jennies, houses, buildings and auxiliary machinery, supposed at least 285,000

£ 1,000,000

The state of the raw materials, and the progressive and astonishing increase of this manufacture, will be best explained by what follows:

The cotton and wool applied to the manufacture of | *When manufactured, supposed to be worth*

Year	lb.	£.
1781 -	5,101,922	2,000,000
1782 -	11,306,800	3,900,000
1783 -	9,546,179	3,200,000
1784 -	11,280,238	3,950,000
1785 -	17,992,898	6,900,000
1786 -	16,151,867	6,500,000
1787 -	22,600,000	7,500,000

From whence it appears that the cotton and wool applied to the hand and water machines in Great Britain in 1787, being 22,600,000 lb. (worth, in the raw state, about £ 2,230,000,) was worth, when manufactured, £ 7,500,000, yielding the immense profit to labourers and owners of the mills and factories, of £ 5,270,000 sterling.

Philadelphia, June 25, 1788.

A Method of making Mortar, which will be impenetrable to moisture.

FROM MR. DOSSIE'S MEMOIRS OF AGRICULTURE.

Take of unslacked lime and of fine sand, in the proportion of one part of the lime to three parts of the sand, as much as a labourer can well manage at once; and then adding water gradually, mix the whole well together, till it be reduced to the consistency of mortar. Apply it immediately, while it is yet hot, to the purpose either of mortar as a cement to brick or stone, or of plaster for the surface of any building. It will then ferment for some days in dry places, and afterwards gradually concrete or set, and become hard: but in moist places it will continue soft for three weeks, or more; though it will at length attain a firm consistence, even if water have such access to it as to keep the surface wet the whole time. After this it will acquire a stone-like hardness, and resist all moisture.

The perfection of this mortar depends on the ingredients being thoroughly blended together; and the mixture's being applied immediately after to the place where it is wanted. In order to this, about five labourers should be employed for mixing the mortar, to attend one person who applies it.

This method of making mortar, Mr. Dossie says, was discovered by a gentleman the back part of whose house being cut out of a rocky hill, the spring from the rock greatly annoyed it, and produced a continual damp; which nothing could cure till he tried the mortar above described.

Note by a learned Traveller.—This method of making mortar has been practised among Asiatics from time immemorial—but with the addition of a large quantity of molasses and hemp cut fine and mixed with it. This molasses is in that country called Jaggery, and is of a very common kind, used for little or no other purpose than cement. The writer of this Note, has seen buildings in that country, from the remote period of Tamerlane, as firm and as solid as when first built.

J. C. B.

To the Editor of the European Magazine.

Sir—I herewith transmit you, for insertion in the European Magazine, the enclosed Recipe for the Cure of the Gout and Rheumatism, which was in the possession of a Chelsea pensioner, and purchased of him by the present Lord Anson for 500 guineas and an annuity of 30*l.* per annum.

I am, yours, &c.

NORAB ENREPSA.

London, Jan. 20, 1815.

Chelsea Pensioner's Recipe for Gout or Rheumatism.

R.	Gum Guai	2 drams.
	Rhu. Pulv.	$\frac{1}{2}$ dram.
	Flores Sulp.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
	Cream Tartar	2 drams.
	$\frac{1}{2}$ Nutmeg	a $\vee$ $\frac{1}{2}$ dram, or Ginger Powder.

Honey sufficient to make an electuary.—Treacle is, perhaps, better, as honey is apt to pinch the stomach—Two tea-spoonsfull night and morning; and if the fit of gout or rheumatism is severe, a glass of hot rum and water after being in bed; if much fever, white wine and water hot—or hot gruel—To be continued a few days. If two tea-spoonsfull relax the bowels too much, then only one.

THE COUNTY AND TOWN OFFICER.

We have no knowledge of the ability with which the following Work has been executed, nor do we know any thing of the Author. The notice which follows, is copied from a Gazette, in which it appeared in the form of a Prospectus. Had we examined the Work, we could not think ourselves competent to decide on its merits; and this is the only reason why we do not delay noticing it till it shall be published.—There can be no doubt that it is due to our literature, the character of the State, and the public utility, that such a Work as this should be presented to the public. It is due to the excellent character of our Civil Institutions; and they ought to have received an able exposition, in this form, even before this time. Every Citizen in a free State, has a high interest in its Institutions, and we hope to find in *THE COUNTY AND TOWN OFFICER*, that kind of exposition, and Manual of Duty, which shall enable the Citizen to form a just estimate of the Civil and Social character of our Laws, and the Civil Officer of his duties. Surely the enlightened Citizens of the only free government on this globe, are deeply interested in obtaining this knowledge;—and, in turn, we are almost all of us Officers, under that government, at one period or other of our lives. Small as the importance of such a Work may appear to many, we hail its promised appearance with no small satisfaction. Ed.

(P) *For the Prospectus, see the last page of the Cover.*

ANNA; *A New Song.*

ON her cheek whilst the rose and the lily we find,
Whilst her eyes speak a cheerful and innocent mind,
Harmonious her accents, and gentle her air,
Each youth must confess, that my *Anna* is fair.

Not eager her learning and wit to display,
With the old she is grave, and jocose with the gay.
Fallacious pretensions she knows to despise;
Thus worth must acknowledge that *Anna* is wise.

In her heart whilst discretion with sentiment glows,
In our bliss she exults, or she pities our woes.
Possess'd of such charms must not reason conclude,
That *Anna*, lov'd *Anna*, is fair, wise, and good?

S. V.

AMERICAN REGISTER.

Copy of a letter from Com. Decatur to his excellency the Marquis Cerrullo, secretary of state and minister of foreign affairs to his Majesty the King of Naples.

U. S. ship Guerriera, Naples, Sept. 8th, 1815.

Sir—I have the honor to inform your excellency, that in my late negotiation with the Bashaw of Tripoli, I demanded and obtained the release of eight Neapolitan captives, subjects of his Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies. These I have landed at Messina. It affords me great pleasure to have had it in my power, by this small service, to evince to his Majesty the grateful sense entertained by my government of the aid formerly rendered to us by his Majesty, during our war with Tripoli.

With great respect and consideration, I have the honor to be, your excellency's most obedient servant,

STEPHEN DECATUR.

His Excellency the Marquis Cerrullo, Secretary of State, &c. &c.

Naples, Sept. 12th, 1815.

Sir—Having laid before the King my master the paper which you have directed to me, dated the 8th inst. in which you were pleased to acquaint me, that, in your late negotiation with the Bey of Tripoli, you had freed from the slavery of that regency, eight subjects of his Majesty, whom you had also set on shore at Messina; his Majesty has ordered me to acknowledge this peculiar favor, as the act of your generosity, which you have been pleased to call a return for the trifling assistance which the squadron of your nation formerly received from his royal government during the war with Tripoli.

In doing myself the pleasure of manifesting this sentiment of my King, and of assuring you, in his name, that the brave American nation will always find in his Majesty's ports the best reception, I beg you will receive the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

Marquis CERCULLO,

Secretary of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

*Com. Decatur, Commander of the
Squadron of the United States of America.*

NOTICE TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

The ill-health of the Editor, and a 'conspiracy' of causes which we could not sooner controul, have occasioned a delay in the appearance of the 5th and 6th Numbers of the American Magazine, which we now issue together. If this delay can be excused, we hope to propitiate by the increasing interest of our Miscellany.

Such of our Correspondents as have not yet had their turn, will find due attention to their favors, as 'we progress with time.' 'A.' would oblige us by affording an opportunity for an interview. His favors will always claim distinguished attention.—If 'G.' could send us a translation of the valuable Paper '*On the Economy of Caloric*,' without too much trouble to himself, he would essentially enhance our obligations.—On reflection, we have concluded to delay '*SAPELLO*,' till toward Spring.—'*POLITICUS*,' has our thanks—but—had we not better postpone his appearance? We have on file some articles from 'C.' which are well written, on the same subject. Perhaps an interview may be desirable.—'*THE PEOPLE*,' are too select, or too partial, for our pages. Why should we interfere in the handling of fire-brands?—'*F. D. B.*,' No. 2, is on file, as is '*CLERICUS*,' No. 2 and 3. '*BERKSHIRE*,' will please remember his promise. Where is 'S.' of B., all this time?—The snows and the ice of Winter, remind us of our friend 'T.' of S——o., from whom we are always anxious to hear often. '*THE FRUIT GARDENER*,' would be a great acquisition.—'*THE BRITISH BROKEN*,' has our thanks.—'*CANADENSIS*,' will find a conveyance by the care of Judge O., during the next month, if no earlier offers.

☞ The Writer of the Biographical Sketch of Baron Steuben, could not be consulted in the correction of the proof-sheets.

THE
AMERICAN MAGAZINE,
A MONTHLY MISCELLANY,

CONDUCTED BY
HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD, A. M.

Author of a Geography of the United States, a Gazetteer of the State of New-York, &c.:—a Member of the New-York Historical Society, and one of the Counsellors of the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts:—a Member of the American Antiquarian Society, and of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, Massachusetts.

No. 7.	DECEMBER, 1815.	VOL. I.
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For the American Magazine.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURES.

THIS is a subject that excites a great degree of attention, at this time, in America. In every conversation, and every private or public discussion of national affairs, it is almost sure to be introduced. And, really, the subject is of great importance, whether considered in relation to those measures of political economy which ought to give a turn to the decisions of the National Legislature, or to the fortunes, and interests, and prospects; the hopes or the fears of individuals. A great many persons, with a great amount of capital, are embarked in establishments, large or small, of domestic manufactures. Now—there was a time, when it was all the fashion in these states to magnify the importance of these works, and when the administration did all in its power to encourage their growth. With the motives of immediate policy, in which this state of things originated, I have little to do, only to say that the cunning of that policy did succeed with the people. It was either right or wrong, in relation to those great maxims of political economy, by which an administration should be governed. If right, if sound in policy, the administration is, perhaps, too tardy, in giving to the public the evidence of its honest convictions. For my own part, I have never believed that the real, vital interests of this country, could demand any artificial excitement, or legal encouragement, in order to make us become a manufacturing people. There are branches of domestic manufactures, which ought, undoubtedly, to be specially patronized by the timely provisions of special laws. What these are, is principally matter of opinion; and, if seriously examined, it is found that opinions are almost as various as the bias of private interests. I would protect the Iron manufacture, by laying enormous duties on importations; my neighbor thinks that of Cotton, claims the same protection; while his neighbor is only for that of Wool and Woollen goods; and another, for laying heavy taxes on imported Spirits, in order to protect his capital, and encourage his own distillations. Such are the discordances of opinion every where. And until American capitalists shall learn to be more content with regular and small but certain profits,

manufacturing establishments can never flourish extensively in this country. We have neither the surplus population, nor the vast dormant capital which can support extensive manufactories, or make it our interest to become a manufacturing people. This is the true explanation of the ill success which attends our late efforts in this line. In a few, a very few years, nearly all of the enormous capital lately invested in these works, will be possessed by the monied sharpers, while the late gay and greedy manufacturers, must look forward with a perfect assurance to a general bankruptcy. This is a gloomy picture—but let the manufacturer inspect his accounts, estimate his expences, his profit and loss, his future prospects, by past and present experience;—and then, individually, settle the justness of my remarks with himself. I could really enlarge very feelingly and with great truth, on this subject; but I forbear—because, though I would say something, I am anxious not to say too much. A few years of embargo, and non-intercourse, and wars have shown us somewhat of experience—something for prudence to seize and reason upon. A year of free commerce has succeeded all those:—and has not this shown us all of a whole ground? Let us survey the probabilities, and nicely balance them, of a few years to come. I am now speaking to the manufacturers, and I would to Heaven that my feeble voice were heard by all of this truly useful class of our citizens. Look to the vast regions of our happy country, where the richest soils invite your labors;—to the comparative sparseness of our population;—to the scarcity of real cash;—examine the productiveness and security of the labors of agriculture, and then count your products and the chances of cash markets for your wares. Go to the ware-houses and shops of our foreign merchants, and the traders whom they supply. But stop not here—extend your views to England. See a crowded population there, great dormant capital because principally engrossed by a few, in proportion to the whole population of the country, and a whole nation leagued against you; the people, government, and all together. See, then, that such is the importance of this trade, that the manufacturer is protected by the merchant, and all are in league with the minister. England is bound by every consideration of public policy and individual interest, to afford her manufactures for the commercial world. Were I here addressing myself to the Legislators, I might hold a different language. I might attempt to explain the difference between public, national policy, and that crooked, rickety thing called political expediency, or the policy of a party. The truth, however, is, as relates to your interest, that that interest is already ruined, and that beyond all hope. You may be amused awhile, between hope and fear, or you may amuse yourselves a little longer with distant hopes. The sharper hath fixed you for his prey; and who hath seen him fail, may see a spider spare the fly which his own web hath caught. You have been deceived, my friends, and my advice is to get out of your difficulties as fast as you can. The usurer—stay—the usurer! Who dare, in this country, proclaim himself an usurer? No matter—but the usurer already has the most of your profits, and you dare

not even tell who he is! If, now, you begin to suspect that I too have been a manufacturer, you may listen to me with the more attention. You have been told a great deal about independence; commercial independence, and manufacturing independence. And who are they that infatuated you with these ideas? Do they get rich as you get poor? independent as you become dependant? Do they not, like all others, buy of those of whom they can purchase on the most favorable terms? Depend upon it they do, they always did, and they always meant to do so. Go to our custom houses, and see the evidences of a debt of \$200,000,000, contracted with England in one year, and you will learn that the *knowing ones* are much alike in all countries.

I really do not believe that the best policy of this country requires any general encouragement by the government, for the growth of large manufacturing establishments. Our soil demands our first care. If foreign countries, from the nature of their circumstances, can manufacture cheaper for us than we can for ourselves, in the name of reason why shall we not be content to exchange our surplus products for theirs? I would encourage agriculture, and household manufactures, and I would reprobate a taste for luxuries of every kind. The farmer is, of all others, the most independent, and the most useful citizen. Let a corrected taste teach him to reject the superfluities of foreign countries, and to pride himself on real independence, and there will then be no danger of his becoming the dupe of foreign interests. The very despotism of the governments of foreign states, drives the poor, who are necessarily numerous, to manufacturing. In America, where we are all free and equal, and where in fact, we have none of those called poor, even in England, our poorest citizens may all become freeholders, and that with the profits of the labor of a very few years. The road to real, substantial independence and wealth, in America, is perfectly plain. While we have so many millions of acres of the very best of land yet in the forest state, it cannot be for the interest of this country to nourish, nay to force, as in a hot-bed, the growth of manufactures. Such as can be profitably conducted, will not be neglected, even without the previous aid of the Legislature. There is a world of enterprize in the American character, and it will be time to protect any particular branch of trade or manufactures, when this enterprize has shown what may demand this protection. Our true interest lies in agriculture; and whatever surplus the products of this may leave for foreign markets, may be exchanged for such foreign productions as the merchant can find a sale for among us. Could the statesman find the means for reducing the enormous balance of this trade, which now preponderates against us, he would render a valuable service to our country. He would also be a public benefactor, who, by showing us the miserable policy which now prevails of multiplying corporate associations, should lead us to a corrected judgment in this particular. They are a great public evil, because by far too numerous; and sooner or later we shall all be convinced of it.

It must be obvious at first view that in some parts of this extensive country, there may be far greater natural advantages for the

encouragement of domestic manufactures, than are to be found in some other parts. The country about Pittsburgh, at the head of the Ohio, abounds with mineral coal, and enjoys every possible advantage for a manufacturing country. That must become a great central depot for mechanical talent, and the principal manufacturing town in the United States. To make it such requires no other care from the Government, than to let the people follow the natural bent of their own inclinations. But to attempt to make manufacturers of Farmers, is the very worst policy that can be thought of. To be convinced of this, it is only necessary to enquire in the middle states of such as are now manufacturers, but who had a few years since, small farms for their support. Enquire of facts, and of reason, and the result is the same.

We have a strange way of getting along, in this country, with what is called an expression of public opinion. A few years ago some half a dozen of Printers and Editors of Gazettes, anxious for good jobs, contrived to get them by making it seem that public opinion called for a certain measure which they had devised, as the means of putting some fifty or a hundred thousand dollars into their own pockets. They succeeded, but under false colors; and it is really very surprising to see with what facility a few cunning men can make dupes of the majority. We are now told a great deal about the sister-ship, and handmaiden relationship, of agriculture, commerce and the arts; while the Gazettes clamor as if the interests of the manufacturers, embraced all those of all the people in the community. The real history of this business is, that to be consistent with themselves, certain gentlemen must continue to act deceitfully. They tell us, too, that the cause of the army, is the cause of the country, and that the late officers are entitled to land, &c. over and above the conditions of their original contracts with the government. A man who has never been behind the curtain, might almost be led to think that public opinion is really very zealous in favor of these measures. Public opinion is often very different from that affected expression which claims to represent it. Men who are immediately interested in some measure are permitted to be loud in its praises, while either through indifference or inattention, no voice is raised against it, till by trick and management they claim a right to declare what is public opinion! As I mix but little with people, and take no part in public affairs, I cannot pretend to decide on public opinion in relation to these matters; but I am prepared to believe that the people are not anxious to pay heavy taxes in order to support a large standing army;—to embrace the manners and maxims of military governments, or for the purpose of forcing the growth of domestic manufactures. Premiums, for the encouragement of household manufactures, and for those of husbandry in general, might answer a good purpose. A small portion of the revenue, arising from impost duties, might probably be well appropriated to this purpose, and the encouragement of certain kinds of such manufactures as must be carried on in large establishments. These objects could best be promoted by Agricultural Societies, if the government would encourage them in the design.

In speaking of manufactures, the mind is very naturally drawn to a contemplation of various measures and features of political economy, which, as we would suppose, must occupy the attention of Legislators. Perhaps it would be well to consider the enormous amount of our annual importations of distilled spirits, and to enquire if any additional duties should be laid on this trade. The manufacturers of domestic spirits, unquestionably constitute a portion of that interest for which protection is demanded from the government. I would *protect the grain* that our stills consume, and lay a very heavy duty alike on imported spirits, and all those distilled here. A duty of one dollar on every gallon, would be less than I would prefer to impose; were it even 5, the imposition would be a public benefit. The brewing of malt liquors, on the other hand, should be encouraged, as being a branch of our domestic manufactures, which ~~be~~ be prosecuted to great individual and national advantage. A heavy duty on foreign Beers, while none should be imposed on those of our own country, would soon enable us to realize a sound maxim of public policy, as well in relation to national and individual economy, as to public morals. This is certainly a subject that well merits the attention of our enlightened community, its public functionaries, and the zeal of every friend to humanity. The best Beers of Philadelphia, are already in no respect inferior to those of London, and they are sold at less than half their prices. The bottled Porter of Philadelphia, has a high character, even in the East-Indies, and some parts of Europe. In America, there is but one single objection to it—that it is American! And yet many thousand bottles of it are annually drank in our best Coffee-Houses, and the liquor highly extolled, when introduced in the London guise. But for this deception, it would not be received without a sneer. Good Ale, is made in many places. But I am anxious to see the time when families shall substitute a kind of small beer of their own brewing, for a common beverage, if indeed they cannot enjoy that better one, and the best of all others, good cider. This is, truly, the Wine of our climate; and to make it as desirable as the best wines of Europe, we have only to study the art of manufacturing it in the highest perfection. It is a public scandal and a national sin, to convert so much of this very palatable and wholesome liquor into whiskey;—a drink neither palatable nor wholesome, and which has nothing to recommend it but the greater concentration of its spiritous qualities:—that of a barrel, into 6 or 7 quarts. This branch at least, of our domestic manufactures, needs no legal protection, in order to encourage its extension, so long as the distillers are getting rich by it, the poor growing more poor, and the sot can get drunk on whiskey in half the time that he could by drinking cider alone. It is a flourishing trade already. Some people, who have not yet recovered from the fright occasioned by a late insurrection, a rebellion against the laws for taxing whiskey, seem terribly alarmed at the very idea of another such tax. There would be no such danger now—the *Patriots* of those days are all become rich and honorable, very honorable men. They are all administration men, now; and it vexes me to angry

sadness, when I think of the foul stain which these facts have fixed on the Republic. Alas for Republicanism, when its idols dare thus profane her hallowed rights!

But, whatever may be thought of the policy of encouraging manufactures in general in this country, it is now certain the *double duties*, at present imposed, afford little protection to our own establishments. Suppose that, by a new tariff of duties, about to be imposed, Congress raise the duties to a very high rate on some articles, such as it may be thought best to protect in this way, for domestic manufacture; I still question whether this shall be found effectual, so long as those articles are not expressly prohibited. The British ministers, merchants, and manufacturers, could soon adjust a scale of profit and loss, by which the loss of a losing trade should be equalized on those who share in the gains of one, so immensely great and profitable as that with America. Duties alone, can never protect our manufacturing establishments, so long as the power of all England is combined against their growth, & the commerce between the two nations is not only free, but on a footing of entire equality, as by the conditions of the late treaty. If events do not confirm the justness of these conclusions, I shall be most ready to admit my error; but let us mark well the results of a few coming years. Examine this subject in whatever light, it is still fraught with serious difficulties. There is but one way in which a remedy can be found, as well to relieve the manufactures, as to free the country from the ills that threaten us, in consequence of the enormous preponderance of the balance of our trade with England against us. The prudent physician will only resort to violent remedies in desperate cases: ours may be such by-and-by. Should I find time to resume this subject, I may, perhaps, point out this remedy. Its operation, however, would not afford any immediate relief to the manufacturer, whom I would advise to yield to his fate with a good grace, to close his business in that line, and immediately turn his attention to other pursuits. It is hard to do so;—I know it by experience;—but what better can any man do, than do the best that he can, under a due consideration of all the circumstances of his case? It will be observed that in speaking of manufactures, I only include those new branches which have been established during the late series of events in our country, being principally confined to the cotton and woollen business, in large establishments. Were it possible for my feeble powers to persuade, I would exhort every farmer to confine his dress, and that of his family, to the products of the domestic roof. There is a noble, and honest patriotism in this—a real independence. I would do all in my power to discourage a gaudy extravagance, among all classes of the people. They are principally luxuries, for which we have contracted a debt of near two hundred millions of dollars with British merchants, during the late year. In the end it will be seen whether the American people, the proposed consumers, or those of our merchants and traders who have dipped so deeply in the profits of anticipation, are to be the principal losers. The effects of this over trade must fall heavily somewhere. Either the mercantile interest must ruin the agricul-

tural, or simply its own. The longer the catastrophe is delayed, the more remotely will it be felt by the merchant. Before this debt created with England, by this excessive trade, can be finally cancelled, this bubble of speculation must surely burst. Trade, then, instead of being likened to a lottery, may be better compared with a volcano. I have only to add my advice, that no farmer should sell or mortgage his land for goods. The events of a few years, will disclose my reasons for this counsel. But, after all, it may be worth while to consider in what way a partial remedy may be found for the embarrassments under which our manufacturers labor, and whether or not certain branches of the cotton and woollen business may be supported, with advantage. I am strongly inclined to a belief that the spinning of cotton yarn, and, to a considerable extent, manufacturing the most serviceable and substantial cloths, both cotton and woollen, might hold out against British competition, and the cupidity of our own merchants and traders. If our manufacturers would direct their attention to these objects, and leave that aping strife for imitation of British fancy goods, I would still hope that the good sense of our farmers and mechanics and laboring classes, would sustain these efforts, and second a general preference for their cloths. It is certain that the American cotton goods are far more serviceable than any foreign goods that can be bought for the same money:—and that, with the aid of the carding and spinning machines, every family can make its own cotton goods—buying only the yarn. The spinning of cotton, is probably that branch of the cotton business, which may best engage attention in large manufactories. Let England, if she must, with her excess of population and low prices of labor, continue to furnish our toy-shop play things, and our ball-room decorations, which the laboring classes of people in America can easily do without; these can be furnished by her paupers, while our citizens had much better be employed in the more useful and necessary labors of the mechanic arts, and in those of agriculture. If, then, these conjectures are well founded, we may hope to see a large part of those who have lately applied to manufactures, restored to the labors of agriculture, and to the common trades supported by the farmer; while yet a portion may remain in our manufactories, with advantage to themselves and the community. The farmer, should every where pride himself in being able to dress in the manufactures of his own household: and no one doubts that he can make his woollen cloths for much less than he can buy them. The New-England people, have furnished us with an example in relation to household manufactures, which deserves high commendation. With all their faults, and it is now quite fashionable to accuse them of very many, these Yankees have at least this one excellence in their character, that ought to be cherished as of vital importance to republicanism & the republic. Nor will it be found that that rage for speculation which established our large manufactories lately, and in the true spirit of speculation, has been so extensively or injuriously felt in the eastern as in the middle states. In the former, they have more properly grown out of the regular pursuits of business; in the latter they are but a conse-

quence of that speculating mania which has long raged, and been transferred from one object to another, till, in the fluctuations and changes of the times, the poorer classes have suffered most severely. Almost all of the active capital, in the middle states, is now either vested in some corporate concern, or so employed in their operations, that none but the rich can gain even a support. The consequence is that while the rich are gaining rapidly in riches, the middling classes and the poor, are growing most desperately poor. If, in our trading towns, or commercial places, there be some exceptions, and persons found who have ready cash, they employ it almost exclusively in usurious operations. But, to do this, it is not indispensable that they have cash, if they can command credits and accommodations at the Banks. The extent of this trade, this abominable traffic, is great beyond what most persons could possibly imagine. I believe that I speak within bounds, when I say that, in a few of the large trading towns of the state of New-York, there are probably several millions of dollars employed in this way. All regular industry, and honorable enterprise, are either destroyed, or so paralysed, that good men are every where overcome with fears for the event, while all are filled with fearful apprehensions. In this state of things, we are in a fair way to learn the meaning of what writers on political economy have called a tendency toward a monied aristocracy. Hitherto, we had only contemplated this *bugbear*, at a great distance—quite across the Atlantic. It may be worth while for us, now, to enquire, whether in England, where it has been engendered and so long cherished, it did not even spring, principally, from her great manufactories. I have not time, now, for this enquiry, though I may attempt it at some future day. Of all corporate funds, or stock vested in a corporate concern, that is certainly the most productive, whose scrip passes for a representative of money. Could the manufacturers of cloths give to the scrip of their stock, the currency of bank notes, and enlist the brokers in their speculation, they too might yet flourish in prosperity, without the care of wool and yarn, or the mortification of having full warehouses with empty pockets, and no demand for their wares. The manufacturers of bank notes, have the most profitable manufactories, at present. A few years since, the large manufactories of bank charters, had a most lucrative business. At present this business is rather dull; but it is thought the usurers and money changers have a brisk trade, though I do not know that they can be considered as manufacturers, with whom my present business lies. Should I find another leisure opportunity, I shall offer some observations on banks, and banking operations.

MONETAS.

For the American Magazine.

GRAMMAR.

THAT that art or science which teaches to write and speak correctly, is entitled to eminent notice among a people who cultivate a general acquaintance with literature, is a proposition too self-evident for demonstration. Grammar may be denominated the fine-art of modern literature. Without being able to speak and to write with propriety and correctness, we have failed in a most important part of the object of education. Aware of this the people are every where manifesting their anxiety for giving to their children such an education as shall include a competent knowledge of grammar. This is highly laudable ;—but it may be worth while to enquire whether or not the measures that are taken are adequate to the object. I am aware that it is no easy matter to dissuade from the sanction of popular opinion, whether it be right or wrong. Perhaps most people will readily admit that it is one thing to learn the rules laid down for any purpose of art, and another thing to acquire the practice or application of these rules, so as to derive from the use of them that benefit for which they were designed. The only object of learning the rules, is to acquire that knowledge which they are designed to afford. Now it does not follow that every person, however well versed in the rules of grammar, is therefore a grammarian ; because it is very possible for a man to have every part of a whole book of grammar *at his tongue's end*, as the saying is, and yet be incapable of writing or speaking with any tolerable degree of correctness. It is possible, therefore, for a man to know a great deal about the rules of grammar, and very little about correct language : or in other words, he may be able to repeat the whole book by rote, when he cannot write or speak a single sentence with correctness. By the aid of the rules, he may parse whole pages, and yet in his writing or speaking violate all the rules of grammar so constantly as to use very barbarous language. This may seem paradoxical, at first, to some people, but a little observation will convince every one that the observations are well founded. It is admitted by all that our language, when written, is far from being definite or perfect without correct punctuation. Indeed the *points* are an indispensable part of the language. Yet how common is it to see the written language of our grammarians, even the teachers of our grammar schools, wholly deficient in this part of grammar ! You may examine whole pages, with no other mark of pause or separation than a dash—and frequently this is used when the sense requires a comma, or a semi-colon ; or perhaps a period. This circumstance often reminds me of a similar case, in relation to the law or rule for regulating the fines of the common militia. By the law, certain equipments, as they are called, are demanded alike of the officer and the soldier, when they appear on parade for inspection. But, by that same law the officers only are charged with the duty of inspection, and of course it is only the soldiers who are inspected. If the soldier be delinquent of a priming-wire, or some

such little article, he is fined a few pence ;—and though the officer, being delinquent of all, be not fined, he pockets the pennies that the law takes from the common soldier, who returns home vastly satisfied with the superiority of the knowledge of his officer !

The only object of studying grammar, is to obtain such a knowledge of the structure of language, that we can apply that knowledge to use, and learn to write and speak correctly. If, therefore, a man has learnt to do this, and has acquired a habit of doing so constantly, he is a good grammarian :—for he has succeeded in acquiring all that grammar can teach. If, on the other hand, a man has not learnt to do this, he is not a grammarian :—for he has not succeeded in acquiring that knowledge for which grammar is designed. These cases are specifically put, in order that no misunderstanding should arise from the construction. What says popular opinion, in relation to those matters ? Why, that the man who can repeat the rules of grammar ; can parse a sentence, and cite the rules of parsing readily ;—he is called a grammarian whether his language be good or bad, or whether he can write so as to arrange ideas or thoughts intelligibly or not ! This is, so far as I can judge, the popular opinion of grammar and grammarians ; and, certainly, nothing can be more erroneous. I attended an examination, as it is called, a few evenings since, when the wise men of our village were collected to examine some candidates who offered their services as teachers. And here I must stop to observe that the same letter of law, is made to authorise far different usages of law in one place from those of another. The law of this state, it seems, requires that no teachers shall be employed who are not capable of giving instruction in English grammar. Very good—but the question is whether that means giving instruction in grammar rules, such as learning them by rote ;—or in the use of grammar, in teaching propriety of language ! But as I am no lawyer, I can only say that the same law means very different things in different villages, much to the disadvantage of the good people of A. At B., they have a teacher who speaks correctly and fluently, in chaste language ; whose writing is correctly pointed ;—and who, in short, in whatever he speaks or writes, is so uniformly correct, that his language might all go to press without revision. He makes no great parade of grammar rules, and it has often been insinuated that he is ignorant of grammar ! However, this man has now been employed during several winters in the same place, and it is universally admitted that his success in teaching is very great and general. No man at B. will now permit any one to doubt of the qualifications of the favorite teacher of their village school. The fact is, he is a man of excellent sense and hates all manner of pedantry. The consequence is, that without any parade of what he has learnt by rote or rule, he confines himself to the main object, and makes his pupils grammarians in fact, independent of a tacit and constant reliance on grammar rules. It is universally admitted that his pupils excel in language, and that, somehow or other, they speak and write not only more correctly, but that their letters and conversations bespeak a manliness of sense beyond their years, and all expressed with much

propriety. It should be observed that this teacher has a method deemed very singular here, of accustoming his pupils to read attentively the rules of grammar, but never to commit them to memory. They are then, and very frequently exercised in short sentences of composition, in which they are to use only their own language—but this must be pointed correctly, and capitalized, before he calls it language. A class is thus publicly exercised, in the hearing of the whole school, when the application of the rules and usages of grammar are made and illustrated. He requires no parsing, in form, but he requires examples, from the best of the class, in which the language shall be duly analyzed, as well with a reference to good sense, as to the authorities on grammar and composition which have been consulted. He insists that common sense is a guide much more easily followed than a mass of arbitrary rules, and more readily remembered;—and he also contends that this exercise of the faculties of the mind has a more beneficial influence in maturing and developing its powers, than that of mere memory in a constant recurrence to rules. If a child speak incorrectly, he is directed to write what he has spoken, and to *look at it*. The effect is astonishing. Not only is erroneous spelling thus exposed and corrected, but by accustoming all to write what they speak amiss, or hear so spoken, not only is the deformity of erroneous spelling, and language exposed, but bad language is duly reprov'd. What child will, a second time, repeat an oath, or a falsehood, when he has once written it in the view of this school, attended with marks of its entire displeasure? There may be something, too, in the government of this school which conspires with what I have noticed in fixing its high character. When you visit it, you only see in the preceptor, a little older, perhaps, and a better scholar than any of the rest, to whom all are in entire subjection. At first, it is said, he is always thought severe in his government; but when his discipline is well established, nothing but emulation is seen, and mutual kindness and affection. In the moments of relaxation, you may see him joining in the exercises and sports of the children, as heartily as if he were one of the pupils. There is nothing of the preceptor seen now; but there is a marked attention among the pupils, and a desire to engage his notice:—it is a perfect familiarity without any rudeness. But the moment the signal is given, all is regularity and order, in that perfection which nothing but love and esteem can produce in these relationships, and the ability of a master mould into system. While, in his own government, he is strict in self-command, he does not fail to consider the government of the passions as an important object of education. The best scholars of each class, are occasionally selected as prepositors, and intrusted with the care of the whole; and sometimes the whole school is entrusted to the care of one prepositor, while the preceptor either looks on or joins in the exercises. By such methods, the school at B——, has attained a high character; and while many will think these little details uninteresting or of no importance, there may be others who will consider the case as eminently entitled to every attention. This is no small praise—and it is undoubtedly well merited. And

now, having bestowed some attention on a man, who, by a thorough knowledge of language has advanced far beyond the mere pedantry of grammar rules, let us return home and contrast with the above the pedantry and ignorance of that mere verbal grammarian, who presides over the literary destinies of the village of A. This man is the champion of grammar—for he not only knows every book on that subject by heart;—but he boldly contends that grammar rules comprise the very *essence of polite literature*. He seems to idolize its rules, and, to a certain degree, to spread this kind of idolatry around him. This might do very well—but unfortunately it is only the rules that are regarded, and little is taught of the use of those rules, only that they must be remembered, and often repeated: and this too, while his own language is grossly imperfect, and his writing has neither pointing or capitol letters, either to mark the pauses, or to shew where a sentence begins or ends! These are strong cases, and they are taken from the examples of real life, not only as they exist at A, and B, but in thousands of places besides:—they exist every where, and ought to excite earnest attention, as they undoubtedly will do whenever popular opinion is so far reformed as to adopt the maxims of sense in preference to those of mere authority.

There has been a great degree of liberality displayed in the policy of this state, relating to the establishment of schools, and it is well known that a superintendant is appointed to preside over the interests of a public school fund, as well as to give efficiency to system in the regulations of schools. The language of one of the official reports of that officer, which is the only one that I remember to have examined, led me to suppose he was sufficiently aware of the distinction between grammar, and grammar rules;—between the knowledge of grammar and its application, and these rules or usages by which this knowledge is commonly taught. But, if he is so, his task is by far the greater; and he may find it very difficult to inculcate opinions that depart from those which popular usage has long sanctioned.

Before closing these remarks, let me add that I am well aware of the apology which is often urged for the omission of punctuation in writing. It is pretended to be a drudgery of dullness, which none but pedants would require, and none but blockheads submit to! But besides asking what is language without it, I am disposed to believe with my friend at B——, that the practice of pointing as we write, serves other and important purposes. The habit is soon learnt, under the instruction of a master, and when once formed is formed for life. This is one of the four acquirements of youth which is never forsaken; and he who adheres to it, never fails to improve in a command of language: It serves at once to make writing a pleasing exercise, and which, without this habit, never ceases to be in some degree irksome.

Few persons are pleased with their own writing, while the letter which they have just finished is like a chaos of words, a kind of labyrinth, without order or method. It is only the idea of correctness that makes a person pleased with the use of language. I have

often had occasion to witness this, and to admire that so few seem duly sensible of the use that might be made of it in giving an education. The brain was never designed for a mere lumber-room, or store-house for the mind; because the senses are so connected that each has an agency in whatever relates to all. Too much of reliance on mere memory, if it do not absolutely impair the other faculties, will at least check the equal progress of acquisition. You may occasionally meet with a man of most retentive memory, of great learning, possessing vast stores of acquisition in the fields of literature, who yet has very little of literary treasures. His head seems stuffed with acquisition, but yet unfurnished; or rather so lumbered with undigested accumulation, that nothing is ready for use, of all its acquirements. It is like the furniture of a house into which a family is just moving—dropped, hap-hazard, any where and every where, till nothing can be done in the house for the want of room. But here the simile ends, for when the good woman arrives, she soon so distributes the furniture that no one thing is in the way of another; while the lumberer of the brain makes no distribution, only anxious to stuff his head. It is, moreover, the business of memory, to preserve every thing just as it found it. However great the store, therefore, which it may accumulate, if it be only to be preserved, it can afford little of other employment to the mind than merely to the memory. The man whose head is employed as a concordance, minutely to remember the record of the texts of scripture, can hardly have time to meditate on the meaning and use of the scriptures, so much as one who studies less to remember the records of texts by chapter and verse. It is just so of rules, whether in relation to grammar, or to any thing else. Learning is often encumbered with too many of them; ‘burdened by too much regulation.’ Good sense is a good guide, and having this, a very few rules, and these short and simple, may better serve a useful purpose than a great many. It is the want of good sense that imposes so many arbitrary rules, as it is the want of strength that makes decrepitude require the aid of a cane or walking-stick.

Let us return once more to the schools at A—— and B——. At A, there is a great parade of grammar rules, and of teaching composition, all of which is governed by rules, always arbitrary, and often inapplicable and absurd. No grammarian ever failed to violate his own rules, long before he had finished his treatise on grammar, it is therefore no wonder if at A, they should be constantly violated by the teacher and his pupils. At B, as I have said before, the teacher enjoins the exercise of good sense, which he is blest with himself, and leaves the hobbling exercise of the cane to such as are unable to walk without it.

Does any man believe that the most perfect grammarian the world ever saw, relying only on the rules of grammar, could ever agree in the punctuation of a few sentences? Take a page of the *Spectator*, or of the *Rambler*, erasing all the points and capital letters, and set two persons to supply the omission, and you will then learn somewhat of the perfection of grammar, taught only by grammar rules. Try now, only the exercise of good sense, in the same

performance, and you will find far less discordance in its views. Suppose we take two boys of the same age of equal talents and acquirements, but who are alike untaught in the grammar of any language, and put them to the study of grammar and composition. Let the one be taught by the method pursued at A., and the other by that at B.; or the one solely by grammar rules, and the other solely by the dictates of good sense and discretion, uninfluenced by a reliance on any of the rules. Does any man believe that their progress will be equal, or doubt that the one at B. will improve much faster than the other? Will he not only improve much faster, but also gain a far more permanent advantage from that improvement? If any have their doubts on this subject, I could wish they would submit to the labor of experiment, and doubt no longer. But, it is time to close, for instead of a short note written in great haste, I am drawing toward the prolixity of a long essay, for which I really have neither time nor inclination. Perhaps I may by-and-by resume this subject, when more at leisure.

PHILOLOGUS.

Village of A. 1815.

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For the American Magazine.

"And Joseph said unto them, fear not; for am I in the place of God?"

EVERY person, on reading the above extract, will readily recognise in it the language of Joseph of Israel, to his brethren, recorded in Holy Writ, and in a history replete with the highest interest. The history of Joseph is one of the most interesting and instructive, that can any where be found, and it shall be the subject of a few reflections. It will be remembered that at the period of the above pious reply, Joseph was the governor of Egypt, and second in authority and power only to the king. The supplications of his brethren were presented on the occasion of Jacob's death, when they feared that the evil of their designs on Joseph should be retaliated on them and their wives and families. Israel was dead—the sons had no longer the protection of a father's shield; and reasoning as it is natural for men to reason, they remembered now their own wickedness toward Joseph, and naturally expected that chastisement at his hands which they were conscious of having merited. I need not dwell on this part of my subject—the conscience has performed the same office in all ages, and by it sin has been manifested in conscious guilt. If we remember the history well, as I hope every person does, let us behold the trembling brothers prostrate before a brother—mindful of their sin—and listen to the pious, the god-like language of the governor of all Egypt. "Am I in the place of God?" The good Joseph, most undoubtedly felt the strong ties of nature, and saw in those before him bone-of-his-bone, and flesh-of-his flesh. But this was not all: He knew that vengeance belongeth to the most High, and to Him he left the display of his own power. "And Joseph wept when they spake unto him; and his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said

unto him, we are thy servants. And Joseph said unto them, fear not; for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now, therefore, fear ye not, I will nourish you and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them." Christians, such was the language and such the conduct of a godly man, more than 3500 years ago, and these examples will probably be worthy of your highest hopes of imitation, to the end of time! Joseph, in his adversity, was never forsaken of that God in whom was his trust. Persecuted by his brethren, (*brethren according to the flesh,*) he was sold into bondage in a strange land, where the institutions of a strange religion were calculated to lead his mind astray. But God permits not one to perish in sin who desires the true light of life. Joseph must have been richly blessed with the light of that divine grace which is still the christian's solace, the source of his every hope. Even in Egypt, the lamp which was in due preparation, was made bright with that light which illumines heaven. But what more particularly engages my attention when I meditate on this portion of Holy Writ, is, that the Almighty can turn the evil that man designs into good; or that He does often so overrule evil that good may come from it. Not that the Almighty designs evil that good may follow.—His omnipotence needs not to work by such means;—nor that the sin is the less, because, as Joseph said to his brethren, 'ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good.' It would be well to observe how readily Joseph ascribes all power to God, and how clearly he shows his brethren that although an Egyptian governor, he is still of the same religion as themselves. Revealed religion has been much the same in all ages, since the world began. It is comfortable to believe that the Patriarchs of old-time were of the same faith as are the christians of those latter days; and that as both are allied in faith, so are they allied in God and in the graces of the Holy Spirit. Time, which follows events, is like distance in perspective. That faith which shone in Abraham, may be seen in those worthies whose virtues and trials and praises are recorded in the scriptures for our instruction: and it may be seen through all time, down to the present day, though not yet mellowed by the effect of distance. Truly the good man faileth, by reason of time, but God hath not left himself without many witnesses. I suppose there is not now, nor never was, but one true religion, as there never was but one God, nor but one object of religious faith and holy adoration. And it has often perplexed me with grievous doubtings and many fears, when I have attempted to discover, for myself, what kind of religion, or rather which kind of religion that could be, which should be acceptable to my Maker:—the true religion. Without aiming to wound the feelings of any, I am prepared to believe that the only true religion, is religious religion, and that it always has been so, from the time when the foundations of the world were laid. I have examined scholastic theology till I have doubted if its schools teach more of truth than falsehood, or whether the schools of the prophets of old-time, (to which these modern schools are pretended to be liken-

ed) had any thing to do with theological religion. I was educated in a belief that God is the author all sin, and that, from all eternity, He had foreordained a certain portion of his creatures to eternal misery, and a certain other portion to eternal happiness. I have examined theology, till I find it running into contradictions, and ending in distraction, leaving the mind in doubt, and often in despair. I have examined religion, till I find all real, religious religion, looking in hope to heaven, placid in hope though trembling with fear, serene in faith,—looking through the veil of nature up to the temple of divine grace, and resting only there. I have studied my bible and considered its doctrines and precepts, till I find in it an assurance that religious religion is all divine, and theological and polemical divinity, as they were called, altogether human. In religion, I find a faith that allies the christian to the Patriarch, and the prophets of old. I see that faith, has been the same in all ages, as God, the object of faith, has been the same. What matters it if scholastic theology, or the religion of propositions, be a snare, so long as, through faith, I can mount above its entanglements and enjoy that freedom and blessedness of spirit which an humble reliance on God alone inspires. Wherefore should I rest on the faith of the Scribe and the Pharisee, when Jesus himself stands waiting to ‘teach as never man taught.’ Why dwell on their subtleties, when, by the light of heaven I am invited to press beyond these, and learn of God, concerning the things of God, rather than of man. How comfortable is it that the Christian, however separated by time or distance from the Patriarchs, or the saints of former times, has still with them the relationships of a brother, in that he is a brother in faith. Let us all bear this in mind, that God hath never changed; and that the object of our faith being One, and that the Holy One of Israel, if we indeed have faith, then are we sons and brothers, begotten alike to a hope in one blessed inheritance. And while as Christians we aim at this, let us as men be mindful of Joseph, our older brother, who dared not, in judgment, to usurp the right of God.

The most of the great and glaring absurdities which sensible men find in popular opinion; and which religious men find in theological systems, were not at first so glaringly absurd, if indeed they existed at the first. System makers are necessarily dogmatical. They assume a position, or lay down some proposition, which they propose to consider a part or rather a basis of some system: and by-and-by it is discovered that if the proposition be true, certain consequences must be, at which, abstracted from the idea of supporting the proposition, the mind would shudder in abhorrence. It is thus I view that tenet, as it has now become, that God is the author of sin. Some such proposition as the following had probably been assumed, by some theologians;—that the Almighty foreknew all things from the foundations of the world; and as he foreknew, foreordained. Thus, rather than abandon a simple and idle proposition, have the Scribes of the church been led to defend a consequence of it, till this also has become a tenet of scholastic theology! Such also do I suppose the probable origin of most of those knotty points in theology, about which theologians so sharply contend:

and such is my authority for making a distinction between theological religion and religious religion. Man has no need—he has no right, to extend his views to such metaphysical subtleties, as if he would bound and limit omnipotence. These doctrines are the fruitful sources of infidelity. The Saviour of the world taught no such subtleties, and there is little of metaphysical abstraction, or speculative theology in his religion. Idle speculation has no place there. Well then may christians take courage and be glad, when all concur in putting the bible into every hand, that the religion of the bible may be known to all.

CLERICUS.

ON THE STYLE AND ECONOMY OF BUILDING HOUSES.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

I SET down with an intention to offer a few hasty remarks to your readers, on the best mode of constructing Houses, properly adapted for convenience and economy. Perhaps I shall offer nothing new, but it is necessary to revive, occasionally, even that which is well known, lest it be neglected if not forgotten. The most careless observer, travelling through remote countries, can not but notice the striking difference which he frequently finds, in his progress, in the style of architecture of public and private buildings. This is principally an exterior feature; but if he examine the interior structure of private houses, he will be often astonished to witness the greatness of that difference which he finds, in respect to economy of design & every convenience, and that even in the same country or perhaps neighborhood. I am no architect, nor have I any favorite plan to propose for every house, to the exclusion of all others, without regard to local circumstances. My principal object is to bring to the recollection of your readers a few facts on natural philosophy, which it is important to remember while rearing the fabric of every house, and to offer a few general observations.

Perhaps it may not have occurred to the Albanians, that few places of the same population in any part of America, have so large a proportion of houses that are awkwardly constructed, as respects the convenience and ease of the family. Perhaps, also, it may not have occurred to every body, that the Albany houses are uniformly set lower in the ground, than in almost any other town in America. Such are the facts, however. And with a very improper soil and site, for underground rooms, every house has its lower story in the ground! The soil is either a wet, fine clay, or a soft black alluvion—exactly such ground as every sensible man would advise to avoid building low houses upon, with underground rooms. But, the building lots are principally very small, and a kitchen must be made somewhere; besides that, an underground room is a good place to keep negroes in, and where, in winter, much less wood will serve for them than in an upper room. Leaving all this kind

of policy, I proceed to my object;—for whatever may have been the necessity of the case, at one period, it is certain that habit need no longer perpetuate a pernicious custom. The object of an underground kitchen, is, to be near the cellar, and to save something of the expense of fuel, by putting this room partly underground, by which means it is rendered cool in summer, and not so subject to frost in the winter. But, is it not, still, an expensive and inconvenient project, incompetent for the purpose intended, and unhealthy to most people? Certainly it must be deemed such by those who are annually driven by inundation from the lower to the upper rooms. How inveterate is habit! You may see this even in the public buildings, which are all burrowed into the ground, as if they also needed cellar kitchens. The main object of the cellar, is, a low temperature, and as uniform as may be through the year; neither troubled by the heat of summer, or the frost of winter. So cool in summer that butter* will be kept hard in it, and fresh meats preserved some days longer than in the temperature of the open air;—and in winter, never to freeze water. The cellar may well be damp, and be the cooler for this dampness. A temperature of 40 to 45 deg. of Fahrenheit, is probably the best for this apartment. This is from 8 to 13 deg. above the freezing point, and sufficiently cool for summer, as it is sufficiently warm for winter. This is just about the average temperature of the earth in this latitude, at a depth of three feet, or perhaps a little short of that. Could you, therefore, exclude the external air from your cellar, the floor of which should be about three feet below the level of the surface of the surrounding ground; and could the transmission of caloric through the walls and ceiling of this apartment be prevented, the uniform temperature thereof would then be about 40 to 45 deg. With sinking a pit in one corner, three feet deeper, (as I have once done and fully tried the experiment,) the temperature of the whole cellar may be considerably reduced, and that of the pit, covered by a box enclosure, shaded as it is all around, will preserve ice through the year. The object is to get the low temperature required, as near as may be to the level of the ground. For this purpose, I would propose that the cellar should be three feet deep, and the floor raised one foot from the ground. In one corner of the cellar, the N. E. is best, when it can be done, sink a pit three or four feet deeper, of such capacity as you may desire, and the nature of the ground admit, and stone it up like a well, fitting shelves all around against the sides. Enclose this pit by a double ceiling of boards, with a space between of about an inch; and on one side have a door, from which steps descend into the pit. This is now your refrigeratory; and with a few barrels of ice at the bottom, you may keep your eggs and butter and fresh meats frozen through the year;—Or, if not an epicure, quite cool enough for health, without the ice. It

* Butter that is good, only begins to melt at about 72 deg. of Fahrenheit, and is quite hard at 55 to 60 deg. At a temperature of 40 to 45 deg. it may be kept sweet for a long time. This is about the temperature that it takes from a piece of ice, placed upon it in summer, for the table, the ice being 32 deg. At the temperature of 45 deg. it is never attacked by the flies.

will be observed that I have said above, *if the transmission of caloric could be prevented, &c.* The walls of the cellar should be laid hollow, as proposed for the ceiling of the refrigeratory;—that is, with a space of one or two inches, in the middle, from at least two feet below the surface of the ground, to the next story above: and the ceiling over head, being double, should also be very tight and close. The windows of the cellar should be made double, with an inch or more of space between the panes of glass. Should the whole house be built in this way, it would be far more temperate, in any climate; but this is not necessary in ours. The cellar walls, built in this way, would have to be some the thicker, and linding pieces of stone should be laid crosswise occasionally, to connect the two walls firmly together. Dry air, is a perfect nonconductor of caloric, or the matter of heat. One or two inches of space, in such a wall, will have more effect in preventing the transmission, either way, of the caloric or heat, than as many feet of solid masonry. Examining a cellar wall in cold weather, you will uniformly find the most of the white frosty covering within, on the ends of such stones as come the nearest to extending across, from the one side of the wall to the other. It may, perhaps, be worth consideration, whether or not the whole walls of the lower story should be built hollow, as proposed for those of the cellar. Were the kitchen in front, and the walls built as proposed, the floor might better be as high as the adjoining ground; and going into the cellar, descend 1, 2, or 3 steps. This would make the temperature of the kitchen, and that of the cellar, sufficiently low and uniform. But would the people adopt a better policy, and make the building lots in towns larger, the kitchen should stand in the rear, above ground. Let any man examine the actual conveniences of a house in Philadelphia, compared with those of most houses in this city which are commonly rented, and he will be surprised at the difference in this respect, as well as in the prices of rent. And still successive ages either follow the fashion of the old ones which first formed the fashion of houses here, or depart so slowly from it, that it may well excite the greatest astonishment. I know of no reason why rents, and the prices of living, in every article, should not fall rapidly in this city, as, indeed, I believe they must, and pretty soon. At least if the owners of houses do not adopt a better plan for the convenience and ease of tenants, it is to be hoped that few tenants may be found, and that tenements may be had for far less enormous rents. As it is, I know of no place where such indifferent accommodations are now bought at so high a rate. A man may hire as much room, and with far better accommodations, in Philadelphia, for an hundred dollars, as he can here for as many pounds. It is very true that a good style of workmanship is to be seen in many of the buildings of this city, and a pretty good style of architecture, *on the outside*;—while there is some degree of improvement in the interior arrangement, though less by far than there ought to be. Wherefore spend ages, in gradually stepping out of a bad habit, instead of adopting a good one at once! An accurate observer, by examining the style of the plan, may determine, within a few years, the origin of almost every

house erected in this city—Step-by-step;—from the full, to the half, and quarter blood;—so we are departing from the *venerable* model of *antiquity*.

But, I am fearful of trespassing too long on your patience. If you can aid the work of improvement, in respect to the plan of building, rest assured of the thanks of,

A TENANT.

Albany, Dec. 1815.

P. S. I mentioned that I had tried the experiment of the pit. Whatever was the cause I know not, but during several years after I formed this, the cellar was never infested with rats or mice, though it had been before. Whether it was the greater coolness of the cellar, occasioned by the ice, that drove them away, or whatever the cause, they all left it. Independent, however, of these considerations, the convenience and utility of such a pit is very great, and the expense trifling.

The Phenomena of Natural Electricity Observed by the Ancients.

BY THE ABBE BERTHELON.

ALTHOUGH the discovery of the electricity of thunder is very recent, we find so certain and evident traces of it among the Ancients, that we cannot doubt of its having been observed by them; we shall relate several proofs which establish this assertion beyond dispute: they are supported by facts, which we should have found great difficulty to explain before our knowledge of atmospheric electricity.

It is certain from the account of Herodotus, that people, two thousand years ago, could attract lightning by sharp-pointed rods of iron. According to that author, the Thracians disarmed Heaven of its thunder, by discharging arrows into the air, and the Hyperboreans could do the same by darting towards the clouds lances headed with pieces of sharp-pointed iron. These customs are so many circumstances which conducted to the discovery of electricity, a phenomenon known to the Greeks and Romans by certain effects which they attributed to the Gods, as Mr. Ostertag has proved at length, in a Dissertation *De Auspiciis ex Acuminibus*.

Pliny tells us, that it appeared from ancient annals, that by means of certain sacrifices and ceremonies, thunder could be made to descend, or, at least, that it could be obtained from the heavens. An ancient tradition relates, that this was practised in Etruria, among the Volsinians, on account of a monster, called *Volta*, which, after having ravaged the country, had entered their city, and that their King, Porsenna, caused the fire of Heaven to fall upon it. Lucius Piso, a writer of great credit, in the first volume of his annals, says, that before Porsenna, Numa Pompilius had often done the same thing, and that Tullius Hostilius, because he deviated

from the prescribed ceremonies, when imitating this mysterious practice, was himself struck dead by the lightning, as Mr. Richman* in our day, when repeating at Petersburg the experiment of Marly-la-Ville, with too little precaution. Livy mentions the same circumstance concerning Tullius Hostilius.

The Ancients had also an Elician Jupiter, *Elicium quoque accepimus Jovem*. Jupiter, who in other respects was called Stator, the Thunderer, & Feretrian, had upon this occasion the name of Elician.

During the night which preceded the victory gained by Posthumus over the Sabines, the Roman javelins emitted the same light as flambeaux. When Gylippus was going towards Syracuse, a flame was seen upon his lance, and the darts of the Roman soldiers appeared to be on fire†.

According to Procopius, Heaven favoured the celebrated Belisarius with the same prodigy in the war against the Vandals‡. We read in Titus Livius, that Lucius Atreus having purchased a javelin for his son, who had been just enrolled as a soldier, this weapon appeared as if on fire, and emitted flames for the space of two hours without being consumed§. Plutarch, in the Life of Ly-sander, speaks of a luminous appearance, which must be attributed to electricity; and in the thirty-second Chapter he relates two facts of the same nature: "The pikes of some soldiers in Sicily, and a cane which a horseman carried in his hand in Sardinia, appeared as if on fire. The coasts were also luminous, and shone with repeated flashes."

Pliny observed the same phenomenon. "I have seen," says he, "a light under this form upon the pikes of the soldiers who were on duty on the ramparts"¶.

Cæsar, in his Commentaries, relates, that during the late war in Africa, after a dreadful storm, which had thrown the whole Roman army into the greatest disorder, the points of darts of many of the soldiers shone with a spontaneous light, a phenomenon which M. de Courtivon first referred to electricity‡. We shall here relate the passage of Cæsar at full length. "About that time there appeared in Cæsar's army an extraordinary phenomenon in the month of February. About the second watch of the night there suddenly

* This gentleman, who was one of the Professors at Petersburg, was struck dead on the 6th of August 1753, by a flash of lightning drawn from his apparatus into his own room, as he was attending to an experiment he was making with it. See a particular account of this melancholy event in the "Philosophical Transactions," Vols. 48 and 49—and in "Priestley's History of Electricity," p. 337.

† Gylippo Syracusas petenti, visa est Stella super ipsam lanceam consti-tisse. In Romanorum castris visa sont ardere pila, ignibus scilicet in illa delapsis: qui sæpe sulminum more, animalia ferire solent et arbusta, sed si minore vi mittuntur defluunt tantum et infident non feriunt nec vulnerant. "Senec. Natur. Quæst." lib. 1. c. 1.

‡ "Procop. De Bell. Vandal." lib. 1. c. 1.

§ "Tit. Liv." lib. xliii.

¶ Vidi nocturnis militum vigiliis inherere pillis pro vallo fulgorem effulgentia—hominum quoque capiti vespertinis horis magnos præsignio circumfulgent "Plin. Hist. Nat." lib. ii.

‡ "Histoire de l'Academe." 1752, p 10.

arose a thick cloud, followed by a terrible shower of hail, and the same night the points of the fifth legion appeared to emit flames*—All these facts, which we have collected from the Ancients, prove that it has been justly said, that to judge properly of the works of the Ancients one must conclude, that there is a great deal of the fabulous in their Histories. and much truth in their Fables; that we give too ready belief to the former, and do not examine the latter with sufficient attention to discover those useful truths which they contain.

To these let us join other facts of the same kind, which have been observed by the Moderns, and which all prove the close affinity between thunder and electricity. Upon one of the bastions of the Castle of Duino, situated in Frioul, on the shore of the Adriatic Sea, there has been from time immemorial a pike erected in a vertical position, with the point upwards. In summer, when the weather appears to portend a storm, the centinel who is upon guard in that place examines the iron head of this pike, by presenting to it the point of a halberd†, which is always kept there for that purpose; and when he perceives that the iron of the pike sparkles much, or that there is a small pencil of flame at its point, he rings a bell, which is near, in order to give notice to the people who are at labour in the fields, or to fishermen who are at sea, that they are threatened with a storm; and upon this signal every body makes for some place of shelter. The great antiquity of this practice is proved by the constant and unanimous tradition of the country; and by a letter of Father Imperati, a Benedictine, dated in 1602, in which it is said, alluding to this custom of the inhabitants of Duino, † *Ignem et hasta hi mire utuntur ad imbres grandines procellasque præcægiendas, tempore præsertim ætivos*.

Mr. Watson relates, in the Philosophical Transactions‡, that according to several accounts received from France, Mr. Binon, Curate of Plauzet, had affirmed, that during twenty-seven years he had resided there, the three points of the cross of the steeple seemed to be surrounded by a body of flame, in the time of great storms; and that when this phenomenon appeared no danger was to be apprehended, as a calm soon succeeded.

Mr. Pacard, secretary to the parish of the Priory of the Mountain of Breven, opposite to Mount Blanc, causing some workmen to dig a foundation for a building, which he was desirous of erecting in the meadows of Plianpra, a violent storm came on, during which he took shelter under a rock not far distant, where he saw the electric

* Per id tempus fere Cæsaris exercitui incredibilis auditu: namque Vigiliarum signo confecto, circiter vigilia secunda noctis, nimbus cum saxeæ grandine subito est exortus iugens—Eadem nocte quintæ legionis pilorum cacumina sua sponte arserunt. "Cæsar de Bell. African. cap. xlii.

† Brandistoco.

‡ They predict the approach of rain, hail and storms, particularly in the summer season, by the lightning which appears around their halberts. Ed.

§ Lettera di Gio. Fortunato Bianchini, Dot. Med. Intorno un Nuovo Fenomeno Elettrico all' Acav. R. di Scienze di Parigi, 1758. "Memoires de l'Academie des Sciences," 1764, p. 408, et suiv.

¶ "Philosophical Transactions," vol. xlviii part 1, p. 210.

fluid fall several times upon the top of a large iron lever, left fixed in the ground*.

If one ascends the summit of any mountain, one may be electrified immediately in certain circumstances, and without any preparation, by a stormy cloud, in the like manner as the points of the weather-cocks and masts, as was experienced in 1767, by Mr. Picquet, Mr. de Saussure, and Mr. Jallabert, jun. on the top of Mount Breven. While the first of these Philosophers was interrogating the guides they had taken along with them, respecting the names of different mountains, and was pointing them out with his finger, that he might determine their position, and delineate them on the map, he felt, every time he raised his hand for that purpose, a kind of pricking sensation at the end of his finger, like that which is experienced when one approaches the conductor of an electrical machine strongly charged. The electricity of a stormy cloud, which was opposite to him, was the cause of this sensation. His companions and the guides observed the same effects; and the force of the electricity soon increasing, the sensation produced by it became every moment more perceptible; it was even accompanied with a kind of hissing. Mr. Jallabert, who had a gold band to his hat, heard a dreadful rumbling noise around his head, which the rest heard also when they put on his hat. They drew forth sparks from the gold button of the hat, as well as from the metal ferril of a large walking-stick; and as the storm was likely to become dangerous, they descended ten or twelve fathoms lower, where they perceived none of these phenomena. A small rain soon after fell, the storm was dispersed, and on their mounting again to the summit, they could discover no more signs of electricity.

* "Voyage dans les Alpes, &c." tom. ii. p. 56.

Journal of a Captivity and short abode in Brazil.

(Continued from page 240.)

Sept. 1.—The window of my small apartment opens into a narrow passage, formed by the back of the prison and an adjoining house, which is selected as a place of convenient retirement for the Carevellos prisoners; so that I shall be obliged to keep my window close shut, and endure a dark room in future. When will the hour of deliverance arrive!

Sept. 2d.—The minister Claudio taking examinations in the prison. It is astonishing to see the fearful awe this man inspires; all confusion ceases at his entrance, and the prison is completely hushed till his departure. He has been a second Jeffreys here, persecuting the whole country on one pretext or other.

Sept. 3.—Very poorly; partly through a heavy train of thought, which at times overpowers me, and I find it impossible to avoid. If alone, I might possibly stifle my sensations; but to see the delicacy and feelings of my companion constantly hurt is too

severe. Her society at this moment of trouble is invaluable : yet I still lament the affection that prompted her accompanying me in the voyage, and has thus introduced her to a land of misery.

Sept. 4.—A serjeant brought a request from the commandant, that I would endeavour the recovery of a servant belonging to his suite ; who directly after was brought into the room adjoining my apartment, and thrown into a corner like a heap of dirt. I found him in a high fever, apparently near his last gasp : and on enquiry, was informed that he had been ill twenty-seven days, lying about the guard-house, gradually getting worse, and totally neglected till this moment. I accommodated the poor wretch with a mat, &c. and after giving a restorative, left him to its effect : but he had scarce lain ten minutes, when a priest came to confess him ; and, clearing the room, sat down by his penitent. Not content with this exertion, he declared the indispensable necessity of the sacrament, which was administered with all its forms ; and, as if determined to give exhausted nature no respite, proceeded with extreme unction, taking from his pocket a small silver box, containing a green ointment (previously blessed,) and with a spatula extracted a small quantity, drawing it over the eye-brows, lips, nostrils, ears, fore-head, soles of the feet, palms of the hands, and back, of the sick, repeating a short prayer over each, and finishing the whole with others. On my remonstrating with the ghostly father about being so tedious at such a moment, he declared that, having secured the sinner from all demoniacal influence over his corporeal functions, &c. he could leave him to the effects of his constitution ; as now, whether he died or recovered, was perfectly immaterial.

Sept. 11.—The weather has been lately tempestuous to extreme, and a vessel entered in consequence for shelter ; the owner of which passed my prison window, and I recognized him for a Portuguese whom I had known before on the coast. I instantly resolved on writing a packet for Europe, and sending it by this stranger in preference to those around me. I have completed my design with some difficulty.

12th.—The happy tidings have this day been announced, that our departure will take place at an early period ; merely waiting for some trifling preparations, and a fair wind. This has at once made all bustle and stir : and several sailors were brought into prison, to remain till sailing ; which is their only mode of manning vessels on king's duty.

13th.—I was called this morning to visit a sick planter, who chiefly cultivates mandiok, that invaluable root which forms the farinha, or bread of South America, and I had an opportunity of minutely viewing the whole process of preparation. Mandiok is a knotted shrub that runs to the height of six feet and upwards, but without branches ; the root, which is the only useful part, somewhat resembles a parsnip, but is much larger. It is planted by cutting the body of the shrub into short lengths, and sticking them into the earth, when they immediately reshoot, and, after growing for about twelve months, the root is perfectly formed, but varies in size according to the fertility of the ground, from one to twenty inches in di-

an inch, and from six inches to two feet in length. The roots being pulled up, and the exterior bark cut off, a farinaceous substance remains, milky and glutinous; this is rubbed to small pieces against a rasping wheel covered with perforated copper, and received into a trough below; it is then dried in shallow pans over a slow fire, till all moisture is evaporated, when it appears a dry granulated substance, and is ready for use. Tapioca is the juice of the root drained from the raspings, and granulated in like manner over a slow fire.

Farinha was in use among the Indians of South America at the time of its discovery, and imperceptibly adopted by its conquerors, wheat not agreeing with the soil, and mandioc being cultivated at an hundredth part of the labour and expence.

(To be Continued.)

CLAUDINE.

A Swiss Tale. From the French of M. De Florian.

(Continued from page 242.)

“CLAUDINE, surprised to find any one who did not despise her, kissed his hands, without saying a word. He spoke to her in the most friendly manner, and enquired after his good brother the Curate: he dwelt with pleasure on the good deeds of that worthy man, and observed, that one of the most pleasing duties of their ministry was to console the unhappy, and heal the broken-hearted. Claudine listened with respectful gratitude, he appeared to her as an angel sent from heaven to comfort her. After supper she retired to bed in a calmer state of mind, and if she did not sleep, she at least rested.

“On the morrow, the good Curate searched through Salanches for a little chamber where Claudine might lie-in. An old woman, called Madame Felix, offered an apartment, and promised secrecy. Claudine repaired thither in the evening, the Curate paid three months in advance, the old lady passed her for a niece lately married at Chambery, and every thing was settled. Indeed it was high time; for the fatiguing journey, and the agitation of mind that Claudine had sustained, brought on her labour-pains that very evening: although only seven months gone with child, she produced a boy beautiful as the day, whom Madam Felix caused to be baptised by the name of Benjamin.

“The Curate was desirous of immediately putting the child out to nurse, but Claudine declared with tears in her eyes, that she would rather die than be separated from Benjamin; she was allowed to keep him for the first few days, and at the end of these days her maternal fondness had increased. The Curate reasoned with her; represented to her, that such conduct deprived her of all hopes of ever returning to Chamouny, or of being reconciled to her father: Claudine’s only answer was to embrace Benjamin. The time slept,

on, Claudine nursed her child, and remained with Madame Felix, who loved her with all her heart.

"The fifty crowns from her father, and the little money Nanette had put into her bundle, had hitherto paid her expences. Nanette did not dare to come to see her, but she sent her all she could spare, and thus Claudine wanted for nothing. She employed her time in learning to read and write of the old lady, who had formerly kept a school at Bonville, and in taking care of Benjamin. Claudine was less unhappy, and little Benjamin grew charming. But even such happiness could not last. One morning the Curate of Salenches came to pay her a visit.

"My dear girl," said he, "when I received you under my protection, when I covered your fault with the mantle of charity, my design was, to take care of your child, to enable him to gain his bread; and I hoped, during that interval, to have appeased the anger of your father; to have prevailed with him to receive you once more into his house, where your repentance, your modesty, your love of virtue, and of labour, might gradually have induced him to forget the distresses of which you have been the source. But this plan you have yourself opposed. With what eyes could Simon look upon this child; he must necessarily remain a lasting monument of your misconduct and disgrace. I can discern by your eyes that your choice is made; but you ought to consider, that you cannot always remain with this good woman, whose circumstances however desirous she might be of befriending you, render it impossible. The money that Nanette sends you, is taken from the support of herself and her family. Nanette labours the ground while you caress Benjamin, and Nanette has been guilty of no fault. You have but one resource, which is, to go into service either at Geneva or Chambéry; but I doubt whether, without separating from your child, you would easily find a place. I allow you two days to reflect coolly on these matters. You will then inform me of your determination, and depend on it, I will do every thing in my power to assist you." Claudine was sensible of the truth of all the Curate had said, but she found it impossible for her to live without Benjamin. After passing a day and a night in reflecting on what she ought to do, she at last resolved, and, after writing a letter to the Curate, acknowledging all his kindness, which she left on her table, she made a bundle of her cloaths, tied up twenty crowns which still remained in a handkerchief, and, taking Benjamin in her arms, she departed from Salenches.

"She took the road to Geneva, and slept at night at Bonville; for, on account of little Benjamin, she could not travel far. The second day she arrived at Geneva. Her first care was to sell all her female attire, and provide herself with a suit of man's cloaths; she even sold her fine black hair, and bought a knapsack, into which she put her cloaths. She fastened the ring, which she had hitherto worn on her finger, round her neck. Thus clad like a young Savoyard, with a stout stick in her hand, her knapsack on her back, a-top of which Benjamin was seated, clasping his hands round her neck, she set out from Geneva on the road to Turin.

"She was twelve days in crossing the mountains, and people

were so much pleased with the air and appearance of this handsome Savoyard, and of the child whom she carried on her back, and called her little brother, that she was hardly allowed to pay any thing, but commonly discharged her reckoning by amusing the company with some beautiful songs peculiar to her country; so that when Claudine arrived at Turin, she had still some of her money left, with which she hired a little garret, bought a brush and blacking, and, followed by little Benjamin, who never left her, she set up a little stall for blacking shoes, in the Palais-Royal, under the name of Claude.

"During the first days she gained but little, because she was awkward, and took a good deal of time to gain a penny; but she soon became expert, and the work went on well: Claude, intelligent, active, alert, ran all the errands of the quarter. Benjamin, during her absence, sat upon and guarded the stool. If there was a letter to be carried, a box to be removed, or bottles to be conveyed to the cellar, Claude was called in preference to any other. She was the confidant and assistant of all the lazy servants in the neighbourhood, and in the evening often carried home a crown as the gains of the day. This was fully sufficient to support her and Benjamin, who every day increased in stature and in beauty, and became the favorite of all the neighbourhood.

This happy life had lasted for more than two years, when one day Claudine and her son being busy arranging their little stall with their heads bent towards the ground, they saw a foot appear upon the stool. Claudine took her brush, and without looking at the master of the shoe, immediately began her operation. When the most difficult part was done, she raised her head.—The brush fell from her hands, she remained immovable; it was Mr. Belton whom she beheld. Little Benjamin, who was not at all affected, took up the brush, and with a feeble hand attempted to finish the work of Claudine who still remained motionless, with her eyes fixed on Mr. Belton. Mr. Belton asked Claudine, with some surprise, why she stopped, and smiled at the efforts of the child, whose figure pleased him. Claudine, recovering her spirits, excused herself to Mr. Belton with so sweet a voice, and such well-chosen words, that the Englishman, still more surprized, asked Claudine several questions about her country and her situation. Claudine answered, with a calm air, that she and her brother were two orphans who gained their bread by the employment which he saw, and that they were from the Valley of Chamouny. This name struck Mr. Belton, and looking attentively at Claudine, he thought he recognized her features, and enquired her name. "I am called Claude," said she.—"And you are from Chamouny?"—"Yes, Sir, from the village of Prieure."—"Have you no other brother?"—"No, Sir, only Benjamin."—"Nor any sister?"—"Pardon me, Sir."—"What is her name?"—"Claudine."—"Claudine! and where is she?"—"Oh, I do not know, indeed, Sir."—"How can you be ignorant of that?"—"For many reasons, Sir, which cannot interest you, and which it would make me weep to tell." Claudine, with the tears starting in her eyes, told him she had done.

Mr. Belton, who did not go away, put his hand into his pocket, and gave her a guinea. "I cannot change you," said Claudine.—"Keep the whole," said the Englishman, "and tell me, Would you be sorry to quit your present employment, and accept of a good place?"—"That cannot be, Sir."—"Why not?"—"Because nothing in the world would make me quit my brother."—"But suppose he were to accompany you?"—"That would be another matter."—"Well, Claude, you shall be with me; I will take you into my service, you will be very happy in my house, and your brother shall accompany you."—"Sir," answered Claudine, a little embarrassed, "favour me with your address, and I will call upon you to-morrow."—Mr. Belton gave it her, and bade her not fail to come.

(To be concluded in our next.)

Since publishing the article under the head of ORIENTAL CORNELIAN, p. 167, we chanced to light on the following article in "Bell's Quarterly Volume of News," published at London in 1802. The very singular intimation contained in the 2d paragraph, connected with the remembrance of recent events in Europe, induce us to offer this also to our Readers. The article may be found at page 224 of the above mentioned volume, and is at least as great a literary curiosity, as the stone is a natural one.

In some succeeding Number, we shall give an extract from the "Moniteur," printed at Paris, during the same year. EDITOR.

Curious Natural Production, found in Russia.

The following account of a stone, found in Russia, with an accurate likeness of Louis XVI. is now in circulation at Vienna, Berlin, and Munich. The description of this phenomenon we translate faithfully.

"At a moment when the minds of all men are occupied with the extraordinary events which have sprung from the French Revolution, it will be regarded as not a little astonishing, that Nature, whose laws are immutable, and independent of human caprice, should have produced and preserved in a Labrador, found in Russia, the precious image of the unfortunate Monarch who has been its most august victim. The profile of Louis XVI. is very exactly designed in this stone. The head, surmounted by a pomegranate-coloured crown, with a rainbow border, and a small white plume, is of the finest blue, upon a ground of green gold, and streaked with lively colours, which Art would in vain attempt to imitate.

"One might be led to think, that Nature, by tracing in so striking a manner the image of this good KING in the empire of Russia, had foreseen that the government of that country would one day be the strongest in support of his family, and efficaciously co-operate both in avenging his misfortunes, and in saving Europe. It might also be supposed, that, in employing blue and gold to form the likeness of this immortal victim, Nature intended to represent the purity of his amiable mind.

"This head may be easily fitted to the collet of a ring, and serve to decorate a great Prince, or embellish the most curious collection. If there be a treasure which is above all price, we may safely affirm that it is the present; as most undoubtedly the whole bowels of the globe may be ransacked, without discovering that Nature has a second time employed herself with so much precision and splendour, upon an object so interesting in every point of view.

"Comte DE ROBOSOME, lately in the service of Russia, in whose possession it is, offers it at this moment for 10,000 Louis d'or. The time, perhaps, is not far distant when this astonishing phenomenon will acquire all its value, by contributing to procure some moments of consolation to the august family of this unfortunate Prince, the remembrance of whose virtue, and misfortunes will be transmitted to the latest posterity.

"Frankfort on the Mein, Aug. 11, 1799."

From the Port Folio.

Experiments made with the large Burning-Glass of Dickinson College, under the direction of Professor Cooper.

THIS lens was purchased by the trustees of Dickinson College from the son of the late Dr. Priestly. It was made by the same Mr. Parker of Fleet-street, London, who constructed the celebrated burning-glass, sent among other presents, to the emperor of China; and which was esteemed the most powerful ingenuity and perseverance had produced. The burning-glass of Dickinson college may be considered as one of the best in the United States. It is made of flint glass, and compounded of two lenses, both double convex, of solid glass.

The diameter of the large lens is in the frame 16 1-4 inches.
surface exposed, 15 1-2

Its thickness at the centre, 1 6-10 inches.
at the edge, 4-10ths of an inch.

Its focal distance, 2 feet 11 3-10 inches.

The diameter of the small lens is 6 1-4 inches.

Its focal distance, 1 foot 5 1-2 inches.

Both glasses are fixed in a wooden frame, which turns on a pivot and slides on a brass bow, and can be moved with ease horizontally or perpendicularly. The smaller lens is placed at such a distance from the large one as that the diameter of a cone of rays falling on the small lens is equal to the diameter of the small lens.

Substances fused, with their weight and time of fusion.

Fahrenheit's thermometer at eighty-six degrees in the sun, and seventy-four degrees in the shade.

Silver—7 gr. melted in two seconds.

Copper—22 gr. melted in thirty seconds.

Bar iron—18 gr. partly melted in five minutes.

Antimony—25 gr. melted instantaneously.

Flint glass—5 gr. melted in forty seconds.

Green glass—6 gr. melted in thirty-five seconds.

Fahrenheit's thermometer at one hundred and one degrees in the sun, eighty-six in the shade.

Crystal of limestone—in four minutes partly reduced to lime.

Glass coloured by gold—in thirty seconds ran into a beautiful globule of variegated colours.

Blue clay from Jersey—6 gr. in one minute melted and ran into a globule.

Asbestos—became instantaneously red hot, but not otherwise affected.

Clay and lime—in equal proportions instantaneously melted into a glass globule.

Lime and quartz—3 gr. each, melted in thirty seconds.

Clay, quartz, and lime—3 gr. each, in thirty-five seconds melted into a glass.

Mica—in ten seconds partly melted.

Precious serpentine—in two minutes changed in colour and reduced in weight.

Platina in grains—in five minutes agglutinated into a mass.

Iron filings—in three seconds partly melted.

Red lead and charcoal—in ten seconds the lead reduced to its metallic state.

Pyrites or sulphate of iron—the sulphur driven off and the iron reduced to the metallic state, which was proved by the magnet attracting it.

Porcelain clay from Armstrong county, Penn. in five minutes partly changed its colour.

A cork, suspended in a decanter of clear water, was slightly charred.

All the above substances were placed on charcoal when exposed to the lens.

H.

Carlisle, September 20, 1815.

Premature Interments.

It has been repeatedly insisted upon, that the custom of too hastily interring human bodies, has frequently proved the cause of death to persons whose lives might have been preserved. A most striking instance in support of this assertion occurred here on the 6th instant. A soldier of the 93d Regiment, quartered in the barracks, was looked upon to be dead, and after having been laid out in the usual way during two days, was conveyed to the place of interment (St. Nicholas' Church-yard) on the evening of the 8th, when, on lowering the body into the grave, the soldiers assisting heard the noise of struggling in the coffin, and on examination found the man whom they were in the act of burying, endeavoring with his hands and knees to force up the lid. To their great surprise they found their comrade still alive, and conveyed him home in the open coffin. This should prove an additional caution against premature interment.—*Cork Paper, June 1815.*

For the American Magazine.

David's Sepulchre Plundered, in Imitation of Lord Byron's Hebrew Melodies.

'Herod had spent vast sums about the cities, both without and within his own kingdom : and as he had before heard that Hyrcanus, who had been king before him, had opened David's Sepulchre, and taken out of it 3000 talents of silver, and that there was a much greater number left behind, and indeed enough to suffice all his wants, he had a great while an intention to make the attempt ; and at this time he opened that sepulchre by night. * * * * * As for any money, he found none, as Hyrcanus had done, but that furniture of gold, and those precious goods that were laid up there, all which he took away. However, he had a great desire to make a more diligent search, and to go further in, even as far as the bodies of David and Solomon ; when two of his guards were slain by a flame that burst out upon those that went in, as the report was.'—JOSEPHUS, ANTIQ. BOOK XVI. CHAP. VII.

Oh ! solemn and dark was the hour—
When the vassals of Herod abash'd,
Felt the lightnings of heavenly power,
Which on their bold sacrilege flash'd.

Muff'd deep in the clouds of the night,
They cautiously steal to the tomb ;
But whence are the rays of that light,
Which awfully break through the gloom !

Behold ! from the wide yawning ground,
Up rises a furious sword ;
Its point with the lightning is crown'd—
The arm—is the arm of the Lord.

The vessels of silver and gold,
Are snatched from their motionless hands ;
Their blood at its fountain is cold—
'Tis the wrath of high heaven commands.

K. X.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

A very worthy and ingenious friend of mine some time since suggested to me a plan for *working the Fire Engine by Steam*. His idea was, that every populous town, ought to be furnished with at least one Steam Engine, to be kept in a central position, adjacent to a principal fountain of water, and so constructed that its power could readily be applied to a large Fire Engine. During an interval of some years, my friend has directed so much of his attention to this subject, that he has produced a very perfect plan of such a combined Engine as he purposes to use in the extinguishing of fires. For myself, I am convinced by his arguments and calcula-

tions, that this plan of his may be used to great and very obvious advantage. In such places as New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, New-Orleans, &c., the expense of such an Engine, it appears to me, would well be compensated by the additional security they would afford against the ravages of destructive fires. Should you, and should the public, embrace these ideas, I may prevail on my friend to communicate the details of his plan for your Magazine. There is a minuteness in his calculations, that must carry entire conviction at once, either of the justness of his conclusions, or of the fallacy of his arguments: he has made all very plain, even to every minutiae of the expense, and the quantities of water, which, with Engines of any given power, may be delivered on a given time, and at various elevations and projected distances. As a philosophical Essay, or a source of amusement for the man of science, this plan of his, would, I think, be richly deserving a place in the American Magazine.

Z.

Advantages enjoyed by the People of the United States.

The author of an Elegy on Americus Vesputius, published at Verona in 1788, presages the future greatness of America, in very strong language. He says, "The last People in improvement, always advance with greater rapidity than those who preceded them, as their minds are not spoiled by old and antiquated systems; their intellects are not weakened by the imposing dictates of authority, nor their reason corrupted by the prejudices of foreign eyes." He concludes with a beautiful apostrophe to the Americans, in which he exhorts them to improve the numerous and important advantages which they enjoy. I forbear to add the reflections that suggest themselves here, and will only repeat the exhortation of the *Italian Eulogist*.

TANNING.

THE splendid fame of some reputed improvements in the art of Tanning Leather, among the Chemists of France, induced some writer in the British Papers in 1814, to throw out intimations that the British Chemists had overlooked this important art. Doctor Thomson, so well known to the public by his writings on Chemistry, replied, "That the art of tanning had not been so much overlooked by men of science, as this person had supposed. Not to mention Seguin, who realized an immense fortune by his fortunate discovery of tanning, at the commencement of the French Revolution, a society of his friends, in Glasgow, expended 5 or 6000 pounds in experiments on the subject, and came at last to this mortifying conclusion, that all the old processes were better than the new, and that all attempts to shorten the time, injured the quality of the leather."—*Glasgow Chronicle*, September 1814.

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CONDUCTED BY

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Vol. I.

***ON ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCHOOL OF
SCIENCE AND MECHANIC ARTS.***

(Concluded from page 297.)

The sole object of introducing these remarks on religion, is to show that church prerogatives and the most splendid establishments of national religion have always been unfriendly to the rights of civil liberty, to free inquiry, and a full communication of intelligence and knowledge. Church government, has always been tyrannical. But, the taste for reading, and the more general cultivation of letters, which followed the Reformation, produced a great many books, and rapidly extended new doctrines and new ideas. The utility of general literature seemed then to have been first discovered; and hence arose the establishment of schools in all Protestant communities, for the instruction of youth in useful literature. This is the origin of Common Schools, for the education of common people, a circumstance that should command at least the gratitude of every American. Thus, in time, when books were rapidly multiplied and eagerly read, science began to dawn, as distinct from literature, or the mere study of letters. Successive ages have been distinguished for the cultivation of literature; but the present is, emphatically, the age of science. Literature, to the acquisition of science, is precisely what the alphabet is to literature: It is a previous step, in the acquisition of knowledge, which science teaches, and without which all the pains of study are but poorly compensated. A single age of science, has done more toward the happiness of society, and bettering the condition of man, than many ages of mere literature. And as a natural consequence of these things, the era of metaphysics is rapidly passing away, and that of physics, with useful investigations and discoveries in Science and the Arts, is succeeding it. With these changes, we must be wilfully blind not to perceive that the social character is rapidly improving, with all the institutions of civil society. The mind, by being free, acquires a relish for freedom, and expands by its influence. For Americans to doubt this, is to doubt the fullest evidence of every sense. Let us look at home, and then cast our eyes abroad. If we examine the various states of the old world, where else is the mind so free as in our own

country—where else so successful in its efforts! If we compare the relative degrees of freedom, enjoyed by the people of other states; where most do we perceive the powers of mind, but in those states that leave to the people the greatest share of freedom? All men will readily assent to this, however much influenced by the slavery of ancient prejudices, and however variously they may be disposed to excuse the abridgment of the natural rights of the people. On this subject, there is still a great diversity of opinion, in all countries, as there probably has been in all ages. Sorry I am that any should now be found in this country. Few are the rights which the citizen must necessarily surrender to the civil power, in order merely to obtain a sufficient guarantee for the protection and preservation of the rest. Very few indeed would they be, if the nature of his individual and social rights were well understood, with the rights and duties of the civil power. It should become a maxim in all governments, that the more of individual rights which the people can retain, and yet impart enough to the civil power, to form an aggregate of strength, equal to probable events and exigencies, not only the stronger will the government be, though sometimes tardy in its operations, but the more sure is the guarantee of public liberty. Ecclesiastical power, should never be trusted for a moment. The clergy must and will have, because they ought to have, an influence over the minds of men in civil society—but to be well merited, it should be influence of a far different kind from ecclesiastical power. Let ‘the laborer’ live by his hire, if you please, but why confide to him, in preference to any other laborer, not only the care of the soul and body, but of your estates also, which he will soon learn to convert to the use of the church, and thus acquire power in the state, rather than influence with his hearers. With all the checks that can be interposed, the clergy will have enough of influence; and like every other description of men, they should only have what they merit, by a just estimate of relative worth. Give them all this, and no more, and still their hands will strengthen fast enough for the happiness of the people, the good of the state, or the prosperity of real religion. I am aware that this is republican doctrine, and if you please, republican religion; but it is such only that is authorised in the New Testament, whatever of other doctrine may be found in the Old, for the authority and power of the Priests under the law of Moses; to the institutions and ministrations of which I should with great reluctance return, renouncing the superior light and far greater blessings of the gospel of grace, contained in the New Testament. The pious, humble minister of the gospel, will not have his feelings wounded by these remarks, because they have neither relation nor application to him—nor have those which I am about to add. In all ages of the world, there have been bad men, amongst even the best. Wherever man exists in sufficient numbers to form society, whether barbarous or polite, savage or civilized, heathen or christian, in every such association there may be found some vestige of what is termed religion, and of course a denomination of men who more or less specially attend on its ministrations. Now, amongst this order of men, there are pro-

bably both good and bad. The ambitious worldling, the subtle, the cunning, and the proud, all may, possibly, get into the profession of the ministry, even among the most godly and truly pious and devout. These observations are not maliciously made, but because they are believed to be founded in truth; and they are introduced here as being necessary in that rapid but general view which I am attempting to sketch, of society and manners. We have all seen how persevering and successful is cunning, joined to ambition, in forcing its way to power, in a country where the public mind is well informed, and the people claim to be the sole depositaries of power. Bearing this in mind, let us turn to those states where the sovereign power is vested in one person, or some very few, by what is termed hereditary right. There is a general aptitude in the human mind, to be misled by professions, and to accept of *prima facie* evidence, without examination. The man who has been educated for the Priesthood, is presumed not only to be a good man and a true minister, but learned and wise in the divine oracles; while on the other hand, however virtuous and learned, the man who has not been educated for this profession, is presumed to be ignorant, or far from being wise as a Scribe in a knowledge of the scriptures, though he may have devoted his whole life to the study of them and oriental literature. Well, here is a man clothed in black, who is known to have been educated among the Priests;—he is cunning and subtle and ambitious—and there is the monarch, hereditary sovereign of the state. Will they not strike a bargain, think you? Will they not be much more likely to do it than if this Priest were a better man! The Profession, and the dress only, are necessary to the sovereign's views, in order to succeed in some object with the people.—Leaving his Majesty and the Priest to settle the affairs of the state and the church, I turn once more to the people, and ask, why will ye ever put your trust in mere dress, or the fashion of a mere profession? If ye covet the chains of slavery and superstition, take your doctrines from the monarch's closet, or from the desk of the Monarch's Priest—but lo! here he comes, a mitred dignitary of the Church, in all the pomp of majesty! Hear him!—hear him, him whom the King delighteth to honor, and all is well. The King goeth to war, and religion lendeth her aid.—While the nation mourns, and the godly are in great fear, the King and the Priest are busy with the tumults of war, and the sports of battle! While the real Minister, in pious humility is in secret supplicating his God for forgiveness and compassion, overcome with a sense of the sins of the nation, pining in sorrow, or engaged in every kind office for the afflicted sufferers around him, the ungodly Priest invokes the wrath of Heaven on the army which the King's foe hath brought to the battle! The King hath given his mantle to that man who would best promote his views; and thus, and thus only have wars, in the progress of events and opinions, become a part of the trade of Monarchs and Priests professing Christianity! The Priest has in all ages and all countries, been hostile to public liberty. No other description of men have done so much toward keeping the world in ignorance, and this forms the only motive for introducing him here.

And while I have shown my dislike of granting ecclesiastical power to the Priesthood or the Church, let it be distinctly remembered that I am no foe to the influence of a pious, religious Clergy. Legal religion, and political religion, are of dangerous tendency—and without these we have nothing to fear from the Clergy. It is impossible that religion can do any harm;—but the Priest may, under the mask of a hallowed name;—and in this cause, theology may as well be perverted as religion. Nor is it absolutely certain that theology teaches less of falsehood than of truth.—It is said to be the study of divinity—well—but those who first invented this DIVINE SCIENCE, as some call it, employed it in teaching the divinity of many gods as well as one! Alas, that while there is so much of profanation in names, the orthodox have power to prescribe dissent, and denounce the honest exercise of the rights of conscience! After all, the Clergy is one thing, and the Priesthood another:—would we keep them so distinct, let us take care, in good time, to prevent the Clergy from becoming the Priesthood. If they rely on the influence of literature, let us interpose a check, and rely on the influence of Science, as well because such a measure is demanded by a prudent precaution, as by objects of immediate and general utility. Without aiming to denounce a Clerical influence, which a little more of combination might make very strong, or to discredit the great object of Clerical anxiety in the establishment of Schools of theology and a wide-spread of orthodoxy, I would only invite people to act from their own convictions of right and wrong: to consider whether theology is the greatest good that literature can bestow, and whether that reign of orthodoxy to which it aspires, could it be attained, would prove a greater blessing than a curse. Should what I am going to add be first told 50 years hence, men would regret, that, whatever might have been the motive for such long silence, it could not have been publicly told at an earlier day; while, now, it will by many be thought premature or impertinent, and some will almost think it a wicked aspersion. There are certain men, of great Clerical consideration and influence, who are already advocating Church prerogatives in this country;—who argue, when out of the pulpit, that the *Church can never know quiet from its enemies*, till its institutions acknowledge a kind of Monarchical head: who boldly aver that the religion of the Gospel is Monarchical, and advocate ‘Establishment,’ while they ridicule the institutions of Republicanism, as derived from mental weakness and puerility. Not that all do this—nor do I believe the majority are entrusted with this great politico-religious secret, or that they would approve it if aware of the policy of the design. Attached to liberty, for its own sake, and confidently believing in the religion of Christianity, which I as confidently believe is designed to give liberty to man, I would meet aggression at the threshold, and vindicate the rights of conscience as becomes a Christian. I, too, am jealous of the rights and honors of the Church; but it is of that Church of which Christ is the head, and whose members are of many folds. If some, therefore, should think proper to rail at my voice of warning, I will content myself with see-

ing the prosperity of this Church; which never can aim at temporal power. Its object is to gain the spiritual consolations of religion, rather than power among men and a prerogative influence over their minds. This Church forms no leagues with the civil power, and its members are united in one object, however they may be dispersed over the world. Its religion, I fancy, is far more religious than theological. Happy indeed am I in the belief, that while a few, are aiming to subvert the spiritual liberty of the rest, the great body of the Church of Christ, desire no such wicked thing in America. Again, therefore, I would add, that the exigency of the times demands all the vigilance of those who prize the liberty of the mind and the rights of conscience. Thousands will assent to this in the consciousness of their hearts, who yet have not the courage to speak aloud in the language of warning or exhortation. Wherefore should man be kept in awe of man, rather than of God!

From this digression we turn again to the progress of events. And if, from the long night of darkness the light has at length dawned, let us not only improve that light while it lasts, but improve also by the records of the events of the ages that are past. Superstition has had its day, and alas how long that day;—its bonds have been burst asunder, and an age of learning has followed. Freedom hath beamed on the world, and the mind of man is assuming its prerogatives. With a cultivation of letters, reading and reflection have been more attended to, till the lights of literature are widely diffused and widely enjoyed. If the blessings of liberty have not been as extensively diffused as those of learning, it may be worth while to inquire if literature has always been the friend of freedom; or whether it has often been too much under the control of scholastic theology; and this too ambitious of the honors and privileges of orthodoxy. Can it be possible for the rights of civil liberty to flourish under the dominion of an Ecclesiastical tyranny?

America is the favorite soil of freedom—and however tyrants, little or great, domestic or foreign, may sneer at this, the Star of America seems destined to rise till it become the Sun of the firmament. Be it then our aim to lead in every good measure, and duly improve the bounty of Divine Providence. We have seen much liberality in this country generally, in endowing schools of literature, and supplying the means of education to all the members of the community. The rudiments of an education in English literature, are taught in every town, and in every little neighborhood of a few families—where a sufficient education may be had for the ordinary purposes of a large majority of the people. Grammar Schools, Academies, Colleges and Universities, afford the means of education in the higher branches of literature and science. It may be proper here to observe that a knowledge of Science is more and more cultivated; and that with us, mere literature is beginning to be but duly estimated. It would be well to hold on this course, yet some time, till the importance of science, also, shall be duly estimated, by the public, and in all our schools. When this shall have been effected, we shall discover a new desideratum, in connecting more intimately the knowledge which science teaches, with

that possessed by the Arts. This would, indeed, be a step in the advancement of knowledge—and it is a step loudly called for by the improved condition of our civil institutions, and the advancing improvements of the age in which we live.

Let us now, in a hope that the plan here suggested may be approved and adopted, turn back to a retrospect of the Education of past ages, and contemplate the series of Schools for public instruction. For it should be borne in mind that Common Schools, for the education of the common people, is an invention of ages comparatively modern. Mere literary instruction, without the dictation of religious creeds in these establishments, was unknown to the world, so far as I know, till the example was set in America. In speaking of old-time, it is necessary to bear in mind that the literary instruction of the common people, formed no part of the system of the Schools, nor did it enter into the policy of the civil or ecclesiastical rulers. Parochial Schools, for the children of the poor or common people, grew out of the Reformation. The Protestants soon learnt to appreciate the power of habit in education, and of course introduced religious instruction. It was a powerful engine against the Pope, and is an agent all-powerful still. It is not my purpose to exercise a spirit of dictation—but, believing that the religion of the Bible is the best of all others; that religion is far preferable to religious tradition, and that the religion of the Bible is best learnt from the Bible itself, I confine my children to that book for religious instruction, in preference to any of the books of creeds and catechisms, which modern theology has devised. Jesus Christ, and I say it with all humility and thankfulness, is the Author and *finisher* of my religious faith.

With these preliminary remarks, let us now pass in review the progressive order of the Schools of former ages, and close with that now proposed, in which Science and the Mechanic Arts should be taught, and as far as may be, practically;—by uniting Professors of each, and blending their labors. In that School, let the man of Science raise his laboratory, along side of the shops of the most skilful Artists in the various works and trades of the useful arts; and by making the knowledge of science practical, and the arts more scientific, confer a favor on the age worthy of its fame:—THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MECHANICAL SCIENCE, would soon do honor to the American name—and by rendering learning more useful, raise the acquisition of it to still higher destinies.

For many Ages, nay Centuries, since the Christian era, the Schools were employed in teaching metaphysics and theology, principally to the higher classes and the wealthy, and in dead languages, or at least in language foreign to the common people where the Schools were taught. To these succeeded an Age or two of more general literature, but still principally theological—when the Reformation dawned, and the art of Printing was discovered, with the polar direction of the magnetic needle. About this time America was discovered; and here, because land was of little value, Feudal and Ecclesiastical rights were not extensively purchased from the Crowned heads who claimed the soil. There was, to be sure,

something of this kind of traffic, but still enough of small allodial freeholds were left to secure a sovereign influence, in time, to a landed interest, formed by a union of small freeholders. Thus the common-interest of the people, was secure in a sovereignty of the people, while a monopoly of power could gain few prerogatives. To preserve this balance of power in the hands of the people, in spite of every exertion of the Crown and special privilege, was a constant care of the best informed and most influential of the inhabitants, many of whom had but recently escaped from the tyranny and abuse of power in the several states of the old world. Communities were therefore established on principles of natural, primitive right; and the people acquired titles to their lands by an allodial tenure of perpetuity, a circumstance highly favorable to the growth of sentiments of public liberty. The British Colonies in America, now the UNITED STATES, increased in population and in intelligence. Many of the early settlers had been driven from Europe by religious intolerance and persecution, and by the horrors of civil wars, in a contest for the rights as they were called, of Legitimacy, claiming hereditary succession to the actual rights of the whole body of the people. These circumstances all had an influence in forming the views; habits, and modes of thinking and acting among the inhabitants of the new world. Sentiments of independence, begotten by actual possession of an allodial freehold, and a relish for the sweets of a competency, thus acquired, are not easily forgotten, or readily bartered away. Jealous of these rights and privileges, the Farmers entered into little communal associations, for the regulation of the social concerns of each neighborhood, in which Common schools were maintained at a joint expense, for the education of their youth. In time, as the population increased, townships were erected, including, sometimes many, sometimes a few, or only one of these School Districts, as they were called. Many were so disgusted with what they had known of Parish taxes, and Parish demands and exactions, that even the name was carefully excluded from the new settlements and associations of the new world. Mindful of these things, when a house of Worship was erected, still the Parish, was a designation adopted with extreme caution; and the Minister was only to be supported by the voluntary contributions of his hearers. Such, then, is the origin of some of the best features of our civil character in these United States; and such the origin of the excellent system of our Common Schools, in which, and which alone have been educated many men of the highest eminence, who have done honor not only to these States, but to the very name of man. Here, then, we show some few ages, in which useful instruction has been the object of the Schools:—And this has brought us to that era in which learning has most triumphed over ignorance, and when Science and Art must form their union. The numerous and extensive works of art on a large scale, call for a union of all that art and science can combine, in order to qualify ingenious men for superintending these establishments. If we had a few Schools, or only one at first, in which the Mechanician could obtain a proper education, with a de-

gree and a diploma, declaring him qualified for a Professorship of Mechanic Arts, the profession would soon be deemed as honorable as it certainly would be lucrative. Gentlemen's sons, who possessed a natural taste for ingenious contrivances and works of mechanism, or what is called a natural talent in this line, would eagerly aspire to the honors and emoluments of a profession so congenial with their views and inclinations. This would be adding one other to the learned professions, and without diminishing as I apprehend, in the least, the usefulness of the other three. It would, besides, call many a lad from the lowest obscurity, to the highest honors and distinctions, not only in America, but probably throughout the world. It would, in effect, be the happy means of uniting whatever is known that is most desirable in Science, Mechanism, and the Arts, and of bringing forward those rare geniuses which every age produces, who are born as it were natural Mechanicians:—and who with better opportunities would have as far outstripped the usual progress of study, as the ordinary bounds of acquisition, but who have too long been suffered to live and die in unmerited obscurity. So many causes have conspired to produce the neglect of those natural geniuses, that I need not stop to point them out. Hardly will that man admit, who has spent many years in getting a trade, what I am now going to add;—that one may be born a natural mechanic, and a whole life prove too short for another to become even a good mechanic! Hardly will the learned Academician admit, that some are ever born natural Mathematicians;—or at least, that the earliest exercise of mind discovers traits of knowledge equal to the highest excellence acquired by others in a long life. Yet such are the facts, with some, without any disparagement to the minds of others. Nor could the Artist of any kind, or the proficient in any Art or Science, be ready to admit such arguments as the above, if experience did not loudly proclaim them well founded;—and reason and wisdom unite in demanding that such evidences of the bounty of Divine Providence, should be thankfully acknowledged and duly improved. Here, then, I add, as the last in the series, a School of Science, in which every thing of Science that can readily be taught practically, shall be so taught;—combined with a School of Mechanic Arts, also taught practically, in order to qualify ingenious men for Professorships of Mechanical Science. As a stimulus to honorable exertion, let this School be authorised to confer degrees by diploma, that thus the dignity of a most useful profession, may not be sunk in contrast with those at least no more so.

Having now passed in review the principal events, from which to draw my arguments for the establishment of a National School of Mechanic Arts, and having already commented pretty freely on them, I come next to consider the basis on which this school should be founded. Taking it for granted that I have fully shown the necessity of such a school, and that it ought to be established by the American Government, I will next attempt to show how it should be supported. In my previous view of this subject, I have already travelled over more ground than any but a novel proposition would

have required, and perhaps over more than was necessary in this case. Taken as a whole, however, the subject is of such importance that the view must necessarily be a pretty broad one.

I believe it is pretty generally admitted that the present system of the United States for regulating the grant of Letters Patent, is not only a very incompetent system, as respects the objects for which it was devised, but that it is, in fact, founded on principles radically wrong and incompetent. Setting aside the complaints against the evils of the administration of that Department, and which, if we may credit public rumor, are neither few nor small, I would propose to demolish the whole system at once, and to establish one better adapted to the occasion, and more worthy the enlightened character of the age and this nation. There can be no doubt that experience, which has shown the defects of the present system, has furnished superior guides for devising a better;—or that the enlightened Statesmen who have witnessed these defects as they have occurred in application, are not duly prepared, by this time, for embodying their thoughts and experience into such a system as the object may demand.

I need not recite the object of Letters Patent, nor undertake in detail, to show how the system now in use fails in securing that object. It is enough to know that Letters Patent are now granted to any body who will pay 30 dollars into the treasury, and for any thing you may please to name. That, then, the only way to ascertain whether or not this Patent be any kind of security for a right or privilege claimed by the Patentee, you must go into the courts of judicature, and try your claims with those of every body else, according to law. The only object, then, of granting the Patent, seems to be to get 30 dollars for the treasury; while the Patentee had much better keep his money in his pocket, and his invention in his head. If there be any propriety in granting Patents at all, the Letters ought to be some evidence of the probable utility of the invention or improvement, and some of legal right. At present they are neither.

Perhaps it may be worth the attention of Congress to consider the propriety of establishing a PATENT BOARD of scientific men, consisting of the Patent Officer, and several members of the National government. I would suppose this Board ought to examine all claims for Letters Patent, and the merits of every invention offered for obtaining such Letters, and grant none but to substantial merit and just claims. Suppose this Board were to consist of the *President*, the *Secretary of State*, the *Secretary of the Treasury*, the *Attorney General*, and the *Officer* appointed to superintend the department of the *Patent Office*, being 5 persons, 3 of whom would make a quorum. Under their direction, the issuing of Patents might be so regulated as to prevent imposition, do justice to merit, and rescue this part of the system of our government from the many reproaches under which it at present rests. It should be authorized to graduate the periods of time for which Patents are granted, in each case, according to the nature of the several cases presented for the consideration of the Board. What periods of time ought to

be allowed as the extreme points, is not for me to say, but I should suppose the Board ought only to be limited between 5, and 30 years. There are many arguments that might be urged in favor of granting some for as long a period as 30 years : and it may well be presumed that until some period is fixed of near this duration, many of the most important inventions of the age will be permitted to slumber in the closet or the brain of the Inventor.

There is a principle established among individuals, of most pernicious tendency, that requires the care of the Patent Department. How far this principle is authorised by existing laws, I know not : but custom and popular usage, is law, with jurors, if not with judges. A man comes into court and proves that at some time prior to the date of some Patent, he had suggested to somebody a thought embracing the principle which is subsequently secured by a Patent. He therefore sets up a claim of prior right, though his *thought* was never proved to have been Patented, nor does he prove, nor attempt to prove, any fraud. The jury set aside the right of the Patentee, on mere presumption. I suppose the correct principle in such cases would be that the Patent should supercede all other and prior claims, unless actual fraud should be shown. Nothing is more common than for two men to think of the same thing, independently of each other ; and the only one that attempts to secure his right of discovery or invention, should not be robbed of that right by the other, on mere suspicion, or perhaps presumptive evidence of fraud. The man who keeps by him a port-folio of drawings, copied from every book to which he may gain access, may be able to exhibit to a jury a vast many resemblances of things and thoughts, which may or may not be original. I suppose the motive for granting Letters Patent, is founded on a desire to draw forth the ingenuity of the people for public benefit :—and that to promote this object, the Patentee should be well secured in the enjoyment of his right, as an inducement to make public the knowledge of his invention. If, therefore, the system devised fails of giving this security to ingenious inventors, the plan of granting Patents can do no possible good—unless, indeed, that may be called a good, which induces these men to pay a few dollars into the treasury, for which they are sure to gain no equivalent. Nor do I believe the opinion sound in policy, which restricts the Patentee to a very few years, for the use of his exclusive privileges. If his invention be really useful, or capable of being made so, he can probably best promote its usefulness ;—while the trifling sum at which he sells his privilege will not prevent the invention from being used. The real object is to gain the benefit of the labors of ingenuity and skill. Now suppose the government, by being over-anxious to succeed to the exclusive rights of inventors, fail in its inducements to make their labors public ;—the fact is that the people sustain a real disadvantage, and discovery and ingenuity are at rest. Suppose every inventor were to enjoy his invention for life ;—to make it profitable to himself, he must sell rights to make use of it : Would the public gain be greater, or less, in this case ? I would suppose the longer the period, the greater would be the advantage to the public ; though there ought, undoubtedly, to be

certain limitations and restrictions. A neglect to use, for instance, or to put into practical operation, every part of an invention or improvement, after a certain period, should determine the inventor's right. Specifications ought all to be published, that persons might know something of what is claimed by others without going to the Patent Office.

In order to examine the propriety of extending the period for the duration of the Patentee's right, let us inquire whether the public is benefitted by granting to an inventor any exclusive right at-all? Were there no law on this subject, we would now witness a strange torpidity in the brains of inventors:—none but wealthy men could make any use of their inventions:—but suppose the law secure to the Patentee of any useful discovery or invention, an estate, a fortune, or even a support during life, by his sharing with those who use his invention, in the profits of it;—would not this induce people to use their best efforts toward making improvements?

But whatever opinions may exist on this subject, it is certain, that for the honor of the country, a better system than that which now prevails is loudly demanded. If these suggestions do not offer the best that can be devised, it is at least the best that I can offer; and if the subject be once taken up by the proper persons, I am fully confident that not only a much better one than the old can be formed, but also a very perfect system.

It is needless to add that the Models and Papers in the Patent Office, ought to be arranged in some convenient form for inspection. An annual, or at least an occasional exposition of the affairs of that Office, ought to be made public. A useful Volume might be published occasionally, of which at least every Patentee would become a purchaser. The work would certainly pay its own expenses, and it might give valuable information to the public, besides saving to ingenious men a vast deal of trouble and expense. If demonstration be necessary on this point, let an experiment be tried by placing that Office under the direction of Professor Cooper, of Carlisle, for some few years, or even a few months. The public would then know something about the contents of the Patent Office. The Library of this Department ought to comprise a full history of inventions and improvements, from the earliest period of record down to the present time. Such a Library would be of great use and importance to the public, and the collection ought not to be any longer delayed.

Under such regulations, we should soon have A CABINET, OR NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, not only with very little expense to the country, but almost without an effort. This NATIONAL MUSEUM, would soon become a central point for the display of all the ingenuity and taste of the nation, as would the School be, for instruction in the Arts and Sciences. With the advantages that I have enumerated, for the establishment of an AMERICAN ACADEMY OF THE MECHANIC ARTS, and all concentrated at the seat of the General Government, let us now see how the only remaining difficulty to be found, may be disposed of. Revenues are wanted. I would beg leave to propose that the revenues of the

Patent Office, after paying the expenses of that Department, may be appropriated to the maintenance of the School, and the several objects connected with it. This source of revenue might well be spared from the national treasury, and especially for a purpose so truly great and laudable and national. Could this object be so far secured, there remains no great difficulty in relation to a sufficient endowment. Let the subject be fairly brought before the inhabitants of the National Metropolis, and let their aid be solicited toward endowing such a School, destined to be, in the order of time, the first School of the NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, and there can be no doubt of their liberality. A COLLEGE, OR ACADEMY OF MECHANIC ARTS, would be no small step toward the full establishment of such an University. I would beg leave to propose that all private donations should be given on the express condition of establishing this School at the Seat of the National Government, and that these donations should only belong to the Institution while the Seat of Government should remain at the city of Washington. The general good absolutely demands a perfect permanency of this establishment; and, so far as human prudence can devise the means, a removal of all doubts in the public mind. Every possible assurance should be given to public opinion, that, wherever it may have been established, the seat of government is fixed forever. Nothing can be more unwise than to encourage doubts, as to its permanency. Let us learn to look forward to coming centuries, for the duration of those works which the present age shall erect there, and future ages will bless the wisdom of the provision. The first pure Republic which the world ever saw, owed more of gratitude to WASHINGTON, in laying its happy foundations, than to any other man. "The Father of his Country," lived to perfect its civil institutions, and to designate, under constitutional forms, that spot which was to bear his name, and be, forever, the political centre of the American Republic. The choice was a happy one, as the writer of this most devoutly believes; and that future ages will see in this choice no less a mark of the great wisdom of our Political Father, than in the other acts of a long life devoted to his country, by which his memory is consecrated to immortal fame. The place first designated for the Capitol of America, with great propriety bears the name of Washington. Would we rudely tear the records of gratitude from the heart of the nation so soon; and, yielding to local interests, or party or national jealousies, so very soon conspire to remove this Capital, and the evidence of national confidence in a late beloved Chief? If there be any wisdom to devise, let the means be found for fixing, with the greatest possible certainty, not only the most permanent duration of the Seat of the National Government; but let the means be found for the removal of every possible doubt about its continuance. The visit of a foe, hath not dishonored the ground; nor have his ruthless deeds diminished the affection of America, for the memory of that man whose name the city bears. Dearer still, to remembrance, shall be that name, and that spot, for ages yet to come. While the event shall never cease to be remembered, nor the tale to be told, the records of memory will not fail to associate ideas favor-

able to the perpetuity of sentiments of public liberty. A barbarous policy of a rival nation hath given a cruel celebrity to deeds of wrong—but the spot that was the scene of those events, is consecrated to historic immortality.

This is digression, however ;—but I cannot omit the view, while proposing a School on an improved plan, to be founded on this spot, destined to take the lead in the Schools of a great National University, proposed by Washington himself, who devised the basis of its future endowment.* Nor can I fail to regret that a proposition for this School could not have been made during the life of that great man. If I do not wholly misconceive his character and views, the plan would have met his entire approbation. Perhaps it may be worthy of the notice of his Executors ; but on this subject I have no right to form an opinion, though I venture to solicit their attention. Ignorant as I am of the present state of the fund devised by that Gentleman, and the later donations by other patrons of learning and liberty, I can form no just conception of the chance of aid from that source. There is, however, no doubt that the city of Washington must rise rapidly to great wealth, and a vast population. Its natural resources are immensely great, and the site is one of the most elegant that can be imagined. Can we doubt the liberality of its inhabitants, or question their discernment and enterprize ? Sanguine in my hopes of the success of this plan, I will not imagine that obstacles to its execution can arise from a source so improbable.

And now, having disposed, so far at least, as belongs to me, of the difficulty of the want of revenues—seeing the Patent System reformed—the revenues of that department appropriated to this great object, and a zealous co-operation of the Citizens, let us proceed to the conclusion.

The object of the School which I have proposed, with the numerous reasons for its establishment, in this country, and in the present age, have already been shown in the course of my long, and I fear, tedious Essay. It only remains, therefore, to add something more on the details of the plan. He who presumes to offer counsel, unsolicited, it is naturally supposed may be officious. The Patent Officer, should hold a Professorship of Science in the Academy ; in which there should also be a Professor of Chemistry, solely devoted to his laboratory ;—and besides these, several of the most skilful Artists, in as many branches of the Mechanic Arts, as the nature of the case would admit of. These Professors should all have salaries, with certain privileges ;—such as a share in the profits of the works that might be disposed of, and of the fees of tuition ;—for I venture to anticipate a supply of pupils, though it should be a School for work as well as study. What kind of works should be prosecuted by the Mechanical department of this School, would be readily discovered by a little experience. And it is easy to foresee that practical Science, combined thus with the actual practise of Mechanical ability and skill, would readily produce Professors of Mechanical Science of unparalleled excellence. They are already

* See his Will.

much wanted for the practise of their profession. Let us hope, then, that by thus combining the knowledge, and the labors, of Science and Art, that while they may learn much of each other, they will have the more to communicate for the benefit of all. I have long been persuaded that if Science would become the benefactor of the Arts, it must often condescend to take instruction from the Artist,—from whom much more may be learnt than seems ever to have been imagined. We want more Science connected with the Arts, and more of the Arts with Science. The benefits would be reciprocal.

But, I am weary of my task, Mr. Editor, and gladly hasten to its conclusion. It has been a great effort, making due allowance for my gray hairs—and yet I hope to live long enough to learn that THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MECHANIC ARTS, is “in the full tide of successful experiment.” Should this happen, I shall be amply compensated for my labor. But should this indeed be permitted, I shall not be without strong hopes that these observations on the events of old-time, may, also, have been attended with some beneficial effects. Without meaning to injure any good cause, or wound the feelings of any good man, I have aimed to present to the public view such an exposition as is amply warranted by facts, and, in my humble but honest opinion, demanded by the actual state of things. Without, therefore, attaching to this labor, any undue importance, I am ready to believe that it has been, throughout, a labor of seriousness, and of good-will toward a beloved country.

December 10, 1815.

FRANKLIN.

POSTLEY'S PATENT COOKING STOVE.



AMONG the many Patented improvements and inventions of the day, the subject of the economy of heat, or caloric, comes in for a large share of attention. This is as it should be. We live in a climate where fires are wanted in all our dwellings, during a large portion of each year, in addition to what may be wanted for culinary purposes, and where fuel is becoming a very dear and expensive article in the annual expenditures of a family. The Stove represented in the annexed Cut, has now been long enough in use to enable those who are

acquainted with it to judge fairly of its comparative merits: and from the great and constantly increasing demand for them, it may be inferred that the plan meets with general approbation.

The following description and particulars, relating to it, are taken from the advertisements of the Patentee.

Ed.

The superiority of this Stove, both for neatness of plan and workmanship, economy of fuel and general utility, above all others now in use, must be allowed by every candid observer. Its advantages may be estimated by the following enumeration of its merits, viz :

It answers every purpose for baking, boiling and roasting, as well as boiling and steaming clothes, and warming rooms. That great, awkward greasy boiler, so generally introduced on the top of modern stoves, and so much complained of by those using them, is in this entirely avoided. Experiments have proved that this Stove consumes only about one third of the fuel required for a common fire-place. It contains two Ovens, with a ventilator to each for carrying off the steam ; and has attached to it a Copper Tea-Kettle or Tea-Urn, two Boilers, with steamers for vegetables, a large and complete Steamer for clothes, a Griddle, a Grid-iron, two Stew-pans, &c. &c., all which may be heated at the same time by one small fire, and put in complete operation. The fire-place has double plates, to prevent the black lead from burning off.

CENTENNIAL RETROSPECT,

With "a Roll of the General Assembly of the Colony of New-York," in the year 1716, just 100 years ago, and the Speech of His Excellency Robert Hunter, Esq. Governor, at the opening of the Session of the Legislature. Albany, Jan. 1816. Ed.

City and County of New-York.

Lieut. Col. David Provoost,
Capt. John Jansen,
Mr. Jacobus Kipp,
Capt. Garret Van Horne.

City and County of Albany.

John Cuyler, Esq.
Mr. Hendrick Hansen,
Mr. Karel Hansen.

County of Suffolk.

William Nicoll, Esq. Speaker,
Capt. Samuel Mulford.

Queen's County.

Major Isaac Hicks,
Capt. Thomas Willet.

King's County.

Mr. Cornelius Sebring,
Mr Samuel Gerretsen.

County of Ulster.

Col. Ab'm Gasbeck Chambers,
Col. Henry Beekman, deceased.
Col. Jacob Rutsen.

County of Richmond.

Capt John Stillwell,
Mr. Abraham Lakerman.

County of Westchester.

Col. William Willet,
Mr. Joseph Budd.

County of Orange.

Mr. Peter Haring,
Capt. Cornelius Cuyler.

County of Dutchess.

Capt. Leonard Lewis,
Mr. Johannis Terbosch.

Borough of Westchester.

Col. Lewis Morris.

Manor of Rensselaer Wyck.

Mr. Andries Coejemans.

Manor of Livingston.

Mr. Robert Livingston, sen.

[27 Members.]

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, JUNE 5, 1716.

Gentlemen,

WERE there no other Reason for our Meeting at this Time, than that we may together rejoice for the Success, with which it has pleased the Almighty, to bless his Majesty's Councils and Arms, over the crafty Devices of his natural Enemies, and the desperate Attempts of his unnatural Subjects; I think that is sufficient, for, is there a Man, who has the least Concern for human Nature itself, who is not filled with Joy, to find the essential Difference, betwixt that and the subordinate Species of Animals refixed and maintained, which must have been entirely cancelled by that sort of Power, which alone could have given a Success to, and have supported the Cause of a *Popish* Pretender. For my own Part, I have ever thought that a Man and his Beast, at best, equal shares in the Benefits of such a Government, I know, I speak to a Set of Men who join with me in these Thoughts, and to do Justice to those whom you represent, I firmly believe that his Majesty, in the wide Extent of his Dominions, has not a Province, where fewer look a Squint on his rightful Title and righteous Cause, for I think, not one have ventured to speak.

I would not have you Misconstrue what I am about to say, as if I were sounding an Alarm, in the Middle of a profound Peace; far be that Thought from me. Your future Security is all my Aim. The late insidious Treaties of Peace and Commerce (the best Authority on Earth has called them so) had left it too much in the Power of those, whom I can hardly forbear, to call still our Enemies, to annoy us on this Side, when they shall find themselves inclined to interpret those Treaties, in favour of a groundless Rupture; the vast Preparations in *France*, for Settlements behind you along the *Mississippi*, with the Neighbourhood of a very considerable Garrison and Seaport at *Cape Breton*, as they may let you into some of their Views in making that Peace (for it was they that made it) so they justify my Apprehensions, and I hope, will be sufficient to induce you, to put yourselves into a better State of Defence, against the evil Day to come. The Strength of this Fort, it is very little proportioned to its Use, which I take to be not only the Security of this Province, but in a great Measure, that of the Continent. The Fort at *Albany*, is next to none at all, and will signify little against any, but *Indian* Enemies, and upon that you well know, depends entirely the Safety of your Frontiers and remote Settlements. I have not been wanting in due Representations elsewhere of this Matter, and have Accounts, that the Lords of Trade, have been pleased to second them, with their Advice to his Majesty, for an Augmentation of the Troops here, of which I hope, we shall speedily have a favorable Account; I hope you will not be wanting in your Part, now that the burthensome Expence of the fruitless Expedition, is in a great Measure over, and the Subject here is less loaded with public Taxes, than any of their Neighbours; I shall be ready to confer with, and advise you about what is necessary to be done in that Matter.

A former Assembly merited and received the Blessings of many suffering Families by the publick Debts; if by Omission, Neglect or otherwise, any just Claimants have been disappointed, I hope you'll share these Blessings, in providing for the Satisfaction of all such just Claims.

I have detained you too long, what besides may occur to me, which ought to fall under your deliberations, I shall communicate to you hereafter. I need not tell you, that the Season of the Year requires dispatch.

VALUABLE LEAD MINE.

WE have lately received some large samples of a rich ore of Lead, from a mine of that metal, in the town of Ancram, Columbia County. It is said the quantity of the ore appears to be very great, and the quality of that sent us, yielded near 80 per cent. of Lead. There is some Silver, as is usual in the galenas of Lead, but probably not enough to pay the expense of extracting it. From 60 ounces of the richest of the ore, we gained less than at the rate of 1-3 of 1 per cent. of Silver, and the expense of the assay was equal to 3 per centum of the metal. Perhaps our conclusions are erroneous, but we have seen nothing in this ore yet that promises enough of Silver to pay for extracting it. The Lead is of a superior fineness, and being easily raised from the Mine, the discovery may prove highly beneficial. The land on which it is found, belongs to the Manor of Livingston, and we are glad to learn that the zealous and enterprising Proprietors, contemplate soon to erect Works for manufacturing this lead into shot or sheets. The Mine is situated about 20 miles from the Hudson, among the hilly ranges that form the western border of the Tauconick hills, in a country whose features clearly indicate metallic riches. The only ores of metal, discovered in this region before, were those of Iron, which are abundant in that vicinity, and very rich. The Salisbury ores, are well known to afford Iron of the first quality, and the Ancram Iron, which has a high character, is principally made from these ores. The Ancram hills, present one of the best fields that we know of, for mineralogical investigation, and we make the remark for the information of men of Science.

ED.

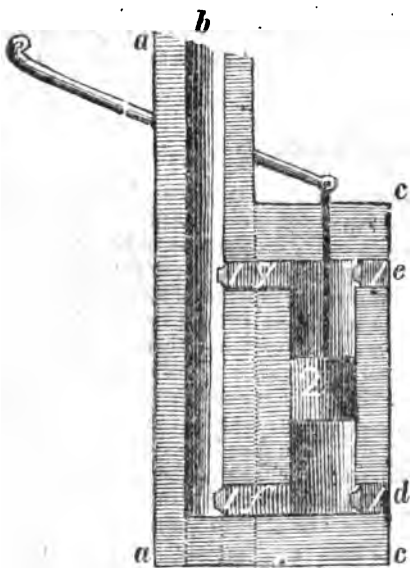
From the Morning Chronicle of Jan. 1815.

ON Sunday last, after the performance of the funeral Service over the remains of a Woman in Shoreditch Church-yard, and when the Coffin had been nearly covered with earth, a moan was heard from the grave, which immediately arrested the hand of the grave-digger; it was followed by another, which convinced him that the sound came from the Coffin. No time was lost by the persons still remaining around the grave, to open it, when the woman was found struggling for breath. She was immediately carried into the vestry-room, where she revived, and was shortly after conveyed home.

Double Forcing Pump.

For the American Magazine,

MECHANIC ARTS.

Gray's Double Forcing Pump.

THE Machine represented in the annexed Cut, is the invention of Mr. Levi Gray, of Springfield, Otsego County, New-York, who has secured his right by a Patent. The engraving represents a sectional view, in order to show the internal construction of the parts. *a a* is the Pump, with the chamber, or elevating pipe *b* in the centre:—it is here broken off, but may be extended, in use, to any height that may be desired. Connected with this, is what the Inventor terms a case-block, *c c*, in which is contained the Piston,

and the working parts of the machinery for elevating water. The whole machine is to be placed in water, immersed up to the top of the case-block. Fig. 2 is a close block, covered with leather attached to the end of the piston, by the motion of which is caused the whole hydraulic power of the Pump, as will be readily seen by a little examination of the parts. On elevating the block 2, a vacuum is formed in the cavity underneath, which opens the valve *1d*, and admits the water—the same operation, is, at the same time, performed above, by closing the valve *1e*, and opening that at *1g*, by which the water is forced into the pipe *b*. So again, on depressing the block 2, a vacuum is formed above, which opens the valve *1e*, admitting the water into the main pipe of the case-block, and forcing it out, below, through *1f*, into the pipe *b*: thus combining the principles and the power of a double suction, or lifting, and a double forcing Pump. The operation is very simple, and at the same time as powerful as the combination is ingenious and philosophical. The Inventor has certainly conferred a valuable benefit on his country; and without any pretensions to philosophical science, he has produced an important desideratum in the useful arts. I have constantly had one of these Pumps for use, during several months past, and do not hesitate to recommend it to others. The construction is as simple as that of the common Pump, and it is none more liable to get out of repair. It elevates the water, readily, more than 100 feet, and works with far greater ease than any one on the old plan.

The following testimonials, taken from a public Newspaper, are here preserved, as an act of justice to Mr. Gray. EDITOR.

WE, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do hereby certify, that the Double Forcing Pump of Mr. Levi Gray, has been exhibited in the City-Hall of the City of New-York, that we have seen the same, and, on examination, declare, that we believe it to be a valuable and simple improvement in Pump making.

Dated, New-York, Dec. 19, 1815.

Signed, JACOB RADCLIFF, Mayor of the City of New-York.

REUBEN MUNSON, Alderman.

GEO. BUCKMASTER, do.

THOMAS R. SMITH, do.

PETER M'CARTEE, do.

THOMAS R. MERCEIN, Comptroller.

JOHN M'COMB, Street Commissioner.

JOHN R. MURRAY, Merchant.

—
New-York, Dec. 20, 1815.

A few days ago I examined at the City-Hall in New-York, a working model of a Pump, invented by Levi Gray, and I have since seen the machine itself in operation. It combines the elevating with the forcing power of the pump in such a manner, that it not only raises water like the common pump, but drives it upwards or forwards, like the forcing pump.

The construction seemed to me to be simple and well adapted. I was informed that the price of the original machine was moderate, and it seemed to me not likely to get rapidly out of repair.

I really believe this invention to be a valuable improvement in the arts.

Signed, DR. SAMUEL L. MITCHILL.

I have examined Mr. Levi Gray's Double Forcing Pump, and believe it to be a valuable and simple improvement in pump making. I have seen water easily elevated by this pump. The bore 2 1-2 inches in diameter, 50 feet. I have directed a pump upon Mr. Gray's plan to be placed in a well at the Military Academy, Westpoint, 90 feet in depth.

Signed, GENL. J. G. SWIFT.

New-York, Dec. 18, 1815.

WE, the subscribers have seen Levi Gray's patent Double Forcing Pump in operation, and from our observation, as well as the testimony of such as have used it for years past, we have no doubt that it is the most simple, cheap and powerful machine for raising, forcing and throwing water now extant, and cannot but recommend it, in justice to its inventor, to general notice and adoption, as an important and valuable improvement in domestic mechanism, calculated to save one half the usual expense and labor of pumping to all who may obtain or employ one of the machines. New-York,

Dec. 19. Signed,

CHARLES HOLT,
LEBBEUS LOOMIS,

ELIPHALET LITTLE,
JONATHAN LITTLE.

MR. SPAFFORD,

Sir,—THE information you gave in your Magazine for November, “of the existence of some intelligent and respectable slave holders in the South, who deplore their unfortunate possessions of property in human flesh, and that the number of this description of people is rapidly increasing,” must tend to sooth those horrid, those inexpressible sensations, which the account of the murder of a negro slave, connected with your remarks, must necessarily produce in every feeling mind.

It would appear from the conduct of these as well as other slave holders, that they possess a passion which is not general with mankind, that of enjoying the most exquisite sport, by inflicting the most malignant cruelty at the expence of their own interest. The Indians, those people whom we call savages, we are told enjoy, in a high degree, the sport of killing their fellow beings, by long protracted and ingenious tortures; but then the subjects of their tortures are their enemies taken in war. Negro slaves, instead of being enemies, are in a manner friends to the owners; for the slaves perform the labour which produces all their owners’ wealth. It appears, as you inform us, that some slave holders have been wise enough to manumit their slaves, and hire them afterwards to perform their work; and they found by experience that hired blacks performed their work better than slaves. I presume that every slave holder is convinced of the correctness of this position: but the delight, the passion for whipping and torturing slaves, and the music of their moans, outweighs every other consideration. It is said, I think, of the tiger, that after having tasted human blood he is more ferocious and ravenous than before—so, I presume, the frequency of flogging slaves increases the pleasure.

It has been contended that the manumission of slaves, especially if general and sudden would be followed by awful consequences. In the state of Massachusetts, slavery was abolished in one day, if my information be correct, and no evil whatever was the consequence; and the first clause in the constitution of that state was used as the means of effecting it.

In that celebrated paper “the Declaration of American Independence,” it is declared to be a self-evident truth, that all men are created equal, which is a similar sentiment to that in the constitution of Massachusetts, by means of which all the slaves in that state were emancipated, thus: A young lawyer, whose name I have often heard, but forgotten, advised a negro slave to sue his master for a twelve months wages, assuring him at the same time he would conduct the cause to a favorable issue. The cause commenced and was brought before the court. The defendant, or his counsel, in defence plead that the plaintiff was a slave, which could be proved, and as such was not entitled to any wages. The counsel for the slave referred to the constitution and quoted the following sentence, “All men are born free and equal,” and observed that the only question to be decided, was, whether or not the plaintiff was a man. The judge accorded with this opinion and so expressed himself to the jury. The jury considered the slave to be a

man, and as such gave a verdict in his favor. The consequence of this decision was, that on the next day, 6000 slaves were liberated. Such is my information. Would it not be a literary curiosity to know who is the writer of the Massachusetts Constitution?

ENQUIRER.

MATHEMATICS AND POETRY.

A drama full of Acts.

Scene. Mathematics discovered sitting under an old tree, dressed in a calico gown, and blue night cap; he seems busily employed in calculating the difference between the top and bottom of a thimble which he holds in his hand, and "ever and anon" gazes at very attentively.

Enter Poetry, running, barefooted, and ragged.

Poetry. O dear, where is it! heh! who's this? What a surly looking fellow! How d'ye do, sir—how do—did you see any thing of a butterfly that—but, like enough, it did not fly this way.

Math. How? (rising.)

Poetry. Did you see any thing of the butterfly I was chasing—O, the most beautiful—

Math. Chasing a butterfly!

Poetry. Yes, sir, I've been chasing it all over the world this half hour, and at last—

Math. All over the world in half an hour! impossible! Do you know what you say?

Poetry. Sir!

Math. You have said what is not true.

Poetry. Very well.

Math. Very well! what! do you not heed what you say?

Poetry. Not a button—It's all the same to me whether I speak the truth or not.

Math. The devil it is! But let me tell you, Miss, there you are mistaken—come now I'll demonstrate to you—come, Miss, sit down by me here, and—

Poetry. Dont believe it—

Math. You wont! and why, pray?

Poetry. You're an ill looking old man—I dont like you—

Math. An ill looking old man!—Egad, I believe you do not mind much whether you speak the truth or not—But come now couldnt you hear a bit of wisdom, even from an ill looking old man?

Poetry. It's not in my way.

Math. But couldnt you step out of your way a little for—

Poetry. That's impossible; I'm at home wherever I go.

Math. Where may you live, pray?

Poetry. Any where.

Math. So, and how do you live?

Poetry. In the old way.

Math. How's that?

Poetry. Just as it happens!—O, lud! yonder's my butter-
fly— *(exit hastily.)*

Math. Halloa! stop! stay! odds 'zooks! she's gone and I may never see her again. A smart, pretty lass in faith: though a little ragged or so—I wish I could know who she is—O, here comes one, who may guess—I'll pump him *(aside.)*

Enter Imagination, in a Grecian robe, and cocked hat.

Math. How d'ye do, sir, hope you're well, sir,—I say, who was that who left me as you came up? Can you conjecture?

Imag. Mum!—you and I, Mr. Mathematics, are two,—hem! I—

Math. Nay, but my dear sir, now—O, zounds! here she comes again.

Re-enter Poetry.

Imag. My dear! my darling! my—

Poetry. O, my life! my all!

(Embracing him like a tragedy heroine.)

Math. Hoh! hoh! is this the way of it! This is one of his wanton mistresses, I suppose.

Imag. There chuck, that'll do! but hark ye, do you know this is old Mathematics, that you have heard so much about.

Poetry. O, mercy! is it possible; and so near him—Stay, I'll quiz him—Look ye Mr. Mathematics, I've long been puzzled by a great Mathematical question, will you be so kind as to answer it for me; how many blue beans make five?

Math. How many white beans make five?

Poetry. Why, three and two, I suppose.

Math. Dye them blue and you have the answer.

Poetry. O, dear! I'm off—I can never do any thing with such an old prig.

Math. But hark ye, Miss Pert, dont take me for one of the capering monkees, that dance after you in your idle pursuits. You may be off as soon as you please; but never again, under pain of suitable punishment, dare to intrude upon my serious and important studies.

Poetry. O, your humble servant, sir!—But, bless us! is this thimble one of the productions of your serious studies! or do you carry it for your great convenience in stitching your thoughts together?

Imag. The truth is, he has been employed in nothing less than calculating the difference of its circumference at the top and bottom!

Poetry. O most serious and important gentleman! If your worship would be so good as to give me a few hints for the better employment of my time, before I go, methinks I should leave you with less regret—ha! ha! ha!

Enter Science, in a pet.

Science. What's all this, what's all this? Miss Prate, I can bear with you while you demean yourself humbly; but take care

how you behave yourself towards this old gentleman, for whom I have a particular regard, or you and I, Miss, I tell you, you and I—

Enter Feeling, with a cudgel in his hand.

Feeling. What impertinence is this you are giving the lady, you old drone (pulling Science's ear, and pushing him about) keep a good tongue in your head, sirrah, or I'll teach you manners—I'll teach you how to behave yourself in genteel company.

Science. Stand off, you impudent braggadocio! and learn to respect me as your master; and one capable of chastising you to your heart's content.

Feeling. There! there! there! (striking him, and knocking him down with his cudgel) take that for a demonstration of your position and if ever—

Enter Reason, in a great hurry.

Reason. Haloa! haloa! haloa! what's all this to do! Stand apart you blundering dolts, and behave yourselves, or I'll rattan every mother's son of you—Now what's all this about, hah? Miss Poetry have you been stirring up mischief again?

Poetry. Indeed every thing was right on my part, sir. I was chasing a butterfly, and happened to come across old Mathematics there; he sneered at my innocent and useful pursuits, and I laughed at his studies over the thimble, and then Mr. Science must needs come and abuse me, and so my friend Feeling knocked him down with his cudgel, and so—

Reason. And so you fought for the thimble and the butterfly—fie! fie! away to your several duties and be wiser—This is the way of the world—every man fancies the usefulness of his favorite studies underrated, when the follies or excesses of which he may be guilty in pursuing them, are laughed at. Personal vanity turns the laugh from the student to the study; and thus the arts and sciences are pushed forward as principals in the petty squabbles of their votaries; when, in fact, they neither concern nor affect them. They have no cause for quarrel amongst themselves, and might always be friends, if their devotees would cease to identify them with their own persons. Indeed it is notorious that they never yet fell out about any thing but the butterflies and thimbles of their votaries. *Exeunt omnes.*

GLORMON.

An account of the first rise of Fairs in England, and of Living, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

BEFORE the necessities or ornaments of life, from the convenience of communication and the increase of provincial intercourse could be procured in towns through the medium of shops; goods and commodities of every kind were chiefly sold at fairs, to which, as to one universal mart, the people resorted periodically, and supplied most of their wants for the ensuing year.

Fairs and Markets were first held near the castles of the great Barons, and near the Cathedrals and principal Churches in cities

and great towns, not only to prevent frauds in the King's Duties or Customs, but also as they were esteemed places where the laws of the land were observed, and as such had a very particular privilege.

The display of merchandise and the conflux of customers at these principal and only *emporia* of domestic commerce were prodigious, and they were therefore often held on open and extensive plains.

It appears from a curious Record containing the establishment and expences of the Earl of Northumberland in the year 1512, that the stores of his Lordship's house, at Wressle, for the whole year were laid in from Fairs; "He that stands charged with my Lord's house for the whole year, if he may possible, shall be at all Fairs, where the gross emptions (that is the principal articles) shall be bought for the house for the whole year, as wine, wax, beeves, muttuns, wheat and malt."

This quotation is a proof that Fairs were at that time the principal marts for purchasing necessities in large quantities, which now are supplied by frequent trading towns; and the mention of buying beeves and muttuns (oxen and sheep) shows that at so late a period they knew but little of breeding cattle.

The great increase of shops in the retail trade in all the towns and villages through the kingdoms since the commencement of the eighteenth century, by means of which the inhabitants are supplied with every article necessary for subsistence as well as for luxury, has in a great measure rendered useless the purpose for which Fairs were originally established. This change in the domestic trade of the country may be attributed to two causes operating together, viz. the facility of payment given by the Notes of the Bank of England, and Inland Bills of Exchange, and that of commercial intercourse produced by the certainty and regularity of the Post Office. The latter may be looked upon as the cause, and the former the effect of this change which has so completely altered the state of Fairs throughout the kingdom.

Connected with Fairs as furnishing the necessities of life, may be given an account of the Living of the People of England in the 16th and 17th centuries.

From the Household Book of the Earl of Northumberland above-mentioned it appears, that his family during winter lived mostly on salted meat and salt fish, and on that account there was an order for providing 180 gallons of mustard. On flesh days through the year, breakfast for the Earl and his Lady, was a loaf of bread, two manchets, a quart of beer, a quart of wine, half a chine of mutton, or a chine of beef boiled. On meagre days, a loaf of bread, two manchets, a quart of beer, a quart of wine, a dish of buttered eggs. During Lent, a loaf of bread, two manchets, a quart of beer, a quart of wine, two pieces of salt fish, six baconed herrings, or a dish of sprats. The other meals had as little variety except on festival days.

At that time, Capons, Chickens, Hens, Pigeons, Rabbits, Plovers, Woodcocks, Quails, Snipes, Partridges and Pheasants, were

accounted such delicacies as to be prohibited, except at the Earl's table.

From the same book it appears that the Earl had only two Cooks for dressing victuals for his Household, which consisted of 229 persons.

Hollinshed, who wrote about 1577, observes that White Meats, *i. e.* Milk, Butter and Cheese, formerly the chief food of the English people, were in his time degraded to be the food of the lower sort, and that the wealthy fed upon Flesh and Fish.

Feasts in those times were carried beyond all bounds of moderation. There is preserved an account of a feast given by Archbishop Neville, at his Installation, 1466, in which are mentioned, among a great variety of others, the following articles, *viz.* Wheat 300 quarters, Ale 300 tons, 80 Oxen, 6 Wild Bulls, 1000 Sheep, 300 Calves, 300 Swine, called Porks, 2000 Pigs, 200 Kids, 4000 Rabbits, upwards of 400 Harts, Bucks and Roes, 3000 Geese, 2500 Capons, 2000 Chickens, 4000 Pigeons, 100 Peacocks, 200 Cranes, 4000 Mallards and Teals, 500 Partridges, 400 Woodcocks, 1500 hot, and 4000 cold Venison Pasties, 2000 hot Custards, and 4000 cold ones. On the tables at this Feast are mentioned to have been 4 Porpoises and 8 Seals.

There were 62 cooks and 515 servants to assist them, and not less than 3000 persons in all were at this feast. A particular account of this great festivity and of the company who sat at each table, may be seen in Godwin's Lives of the Bishops.

At the above period, there was not discovered in society any pleasure but that of crowding together in hunting and feasting. The delicate pleasures of conversation, in communicating opinions, sentiments and desires, were wholly unknown.

About the year 1512, the breakfast hour was eight, and at ten they sat down to dinner, at three in the afternoon they had a drinking, and four was the hour for supper. The gates of the Earl of Northumberland's castles were shut at nine in the evening throughout the year, "to the intent that no servant shall come in at the said gate, that ought to be within, who are out of the house at that hour."

By a Household Establishment of Lord Fairfax's about 1650, it appears that eleven had then become the hour of dining, and towards the end of that century the hour was twelve, but from the beginning of the last century it has gradually grown later to the present times when seven has become the fashionable hour in Noblemen's houses. In the country and in moderate families in the Metropolis one and two are the more general hours for dining.

The hours for attendance upon Change, and the hours by which the Post Office is regulated, have great influence upon sitting down to dinner in London; the general hour for dining among the Mercantile class in the Metropolis, is therefore, at present, about half past five, when the business of the day may be said to be over.

From the Percy Household Book it may be observed that several dishes were then in use which have been long banished from our tables; among these may be reckoned Cranes, Herons, Sea

Gulls, Bitterns and Kirlaws, and at Archbishop Neville's feast, Porpoises and Seals were served up.

After the Accession of Henry 7th to the Throne, the Nation began to rest from the scenes of war and blood which for several years had subsisted between the houses of York and Lancaster, and in the next reign the people turned their attention more to Trade and the Arts of Peace, so that we find the mode of living considerably changed, for luxury being ever the attendant of extended commerce, this brought us acquainted with the produce of Foreign countries, till then unknown in England.

Previously to 1509, the principal vegetables used at the tables of the Great were imported from the Netherlands, so that when Catherine, Queen of Henry VIII. wanted a sallad, she was obliged to dispatch a messenger to Flanders. Asparagus and Artichokes were introduced into England about 1578, and Cauliflowers somewhat later. Celery was not introduced into England till after 1704, when Marshal Tallard being made prisoner at the battle of Blenheim, and brought into England, first introduced this plant on the English tables.

There is an article in the Percy Household Book which says, "That from thenceforth there be no herbs bought, seeing that the cooks may have herbs enough in my Lord's Gardens."

Since the introduction of Tea into England at the close of the seventeenth century, the living of all classes of the people has experienced a total change, but it was not till about 1740 that Tea came to be generally used, for previously to that time those who made use of it got it by stealth, each being afraid of being known to be in possession of what was then termed a great luxury.

Waller has a Poem addressed to the Queen, Maria d'Este, wife of James II. in 1683, "On Tea commended by her Majesty," whereby it seems it was even then a new thing, though Mr. Hanway in his Essay on Tea, says that Lord Arlington and Lord Ossory introduced it into England in 1663, and it was then admired as a new thing. Their Ladies introduced it among the women of quality, and its price was then £3 per pound, and continued the same till 1707. In 1715 Green Tea began to be used, and the practice of drinking Tea descended to the lower classes of the people.

In the Tatler (No. 86, Oct. 27, 1709) the author mentions inviting his friends, seemingly as though Tea was common, to drink a dish of Tea, which they refused, saying they never drank Tea in a morning.

The same author observes, that dinner had in his memory, crept by degrees from twelve o'clock to three, and in the Spectator it is said that coffee houses were frequented by shopkeepers from six in the morning, and that the Students at Law made their appearance in them, in their night gowns about eight. A Lady who sends her journal to the Spectator, represents herself as taking chocolate in bed, and sleeping after it till ten, and drinking her Bohea from that hour till eleven. Her dinner hour was from three to four, and she did not sit up later at a card party than twelve. A citizen out of trade, in the same work, describes himself as rising at eight, di-

ning at two, and going to bed at ten if not kept up at the club he frequented.

The history of Taverns in this country may be traced back to the time of King Henry IV. for so ancient is that of the Boar's Head in East Cheap, London, the rendezvous of Prince Henry and his dissolute companions. Of little less antiquity is the White Hart, without Bishopsgate, which now bears in the front of it, the date of its erection, 1480.—*Cornwall Gazette*, Dec. 24, 1814.

Hints on the Origin and Progress of the Art of Writing.

“Writing preserves the memory of past transactions, of observation, and experience. It preserves literary productions, and tends to improve and to extend the use of Speech.”

INSTITUTES OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY.

MEN at first are satisfied with simply conversing together when present; nor is it till the love of society is greatly improved and heightened, that they devise the means of communicating one with another when absent or at a distance. Hence were emblems, written characters, hieroglyphics, and all the other marks or symbols of ideas or sentiments, invented. By this happy discovery, the human mind became conscious of something like new powers; the most remarkable events, and the most valuable contrivances, were conveyed to other nations or transmitted to posterity; society was cemented by stronger ties, and the range of every science considerably enlarged. No age, however ancient, no people, however rude or barbarous, but has always possessed some method of recording past events. Imitation is one of our first and most forcible principles of action; and there is not a period in our history in which we have not been ingenious enough to copy some draughts from Nature, however imperfect.

There are two ways of communicating our sentiments by art: one by sound, and one by writing. Sound is more ready and forcible, Writing more extensive and permanent. By having the sentiments of others placed before us, we can pause, reflect and judge, deliberately on what effects they ought to produce; whereas those communicated by sound only, if once forgotten can never be recalled. An oration, delivered with proper action, strikes more than the most pathetic discourse we can read. The noblest efforts of eloquence are always accompanied with suitable looks and gesticulations.

This naturally suggests a striking distinction between the art of speaking and that of reading. The actions of the Reader must correspond to a certain position of the eye; those of the Speaker are capable of much greater variety, as naturally rising from the sentiments occasioned in his own mind by those he delivers to others. If, therefore, a discourse, pronounced without acting the particular passions it describes, appear dull and spiritless, an affected display of these, while reading, only seems peculiarly absurd and pedantic. Reading and speaking are, notwithstanding, often mis-

taken for synonymous arts, and for that reason most ridiculously confounded. In juvenile life, while the fancy is fiery and powerful, we are fond of every thing flowery and romantic. Hence many young people, of both sexes, no sooner open a book, than the most preposterous airs are assumed; their head wavers as dissatisfied with its natural position, and one or other of their hands saws the air, as Hamlet says, in a manner equally foppish and awkward.

Communicating our ideas by letters is a much later invention than the use of articulate sounds; the one, indeed, seems plainly an improvement on the other. Letters are signs of words, and words of ideas; articulation must consequently be prior to every species of written or engraved character. Signs of sounds are presented to the eye, and sounds formed into words addressed to the ear. Though there is not the least relation between these two organs, ideas conveyed by letters, after passing through the sense of hearing, have not the least influence in weakening the impression.

The first characters men would naturally use, would be such as have the nearest and most sensible connection with or relation to the thing signified by them as pictures and images. If one, at the dawn of this astonishing art, was to convey the idea of a man murdered, he would cut out in stone, or carve in wood, the picture of the man lying on the ground, and of another standing over him in a menacing posture with a deadly weapon in his hand.

This, in fact, was the method practised for a long time, but capable of representing such things only as could be perceived by the eye. Men considered this peculiar form of expression as susceptible of much improvement. Hence they substituted whatever objects they imagined had any relation to the thing signified, in order, by that means, to express those ideas which have been denominated universal, or abstract, or of reflection. They likewise abridged their pictures, and supplied the want of them with what are commonly called hieroglyphics. Thus they represented a man by his head, knowledge by an eye, and eternity by a circle. The stork signified a dutiful child, because the long and rooted affection retained by this bird for its parent. For a man universally hated, they used an eel, which is known to associate with no other fish.

The Egyptians, among the ancients, were peculiarly famous for their use of these hieroglyphics; which seem also to have been known to the Mexicans when America was first discovered. By these they informed their Emperor when the Spaniards first landed on their coast. It is generally believed the Egyptian priests invented the characters used in that country, for the purpose of concealing their religious mysteries from the knowledge of the vulgar. It seems more probable, however, they were only effects of necessity; for, the moment a correspondence commenced with other nations, these ancient characters became obsolete, or at least unpopular. Then priests and philosophers only retained them, and afterwards made use of them to secrete their sacred rites from those who had now forgot their meaning.

The Greeks, observing the tricks to which they were accommo-

dated by priests and impostors in their time, reprobated them as the infamous vestigia of priestcraft. A certain species of them, however, has been observed to obtain among most rude nations of modern discovery. The native inhabitants of Peru use a small cord, intermixed with knots of different magnitudes, which answer the same end as hieroglyphics, and by which they are enabled to make some indistinct register of their most important transactions. It is from the same principle that, when objects exceed their powers of computation, which are extremely stinted, they point to the hair of their head, intimating that they are equal to them, or with wonder declare them innumerable.

The Chinese letters are a kind of abridged pictures, as is evident from the resemblance they bear to those ancient hieroglyphic characters which convey the same or similar ideas. They have an alphabet, though every separate letter stands for a distinct conception by itself. Their characters are consequently exceedingly numerous, and to decypher them fully would require a whole lifetime. Some say they amount in all to fifty millions and seventy thousand. Their abridged characters are compounded two different ways for representing various things; which shews, by the bye, that their letters have no relation to words. To express weeping, they draw the figure of an eye. Water is considered by them as symbolical of daughters, and the sea of mothers, because in nature the one is produced by the other. Some neighboring nations, who speak a different language from the Chinese, but understand their letters, carry on a literary correspondence with them. Hence it would seem their letters are signs of ideas only. How many understand Spanish characters, and can read a book in that language, who, notwithstanding, are entirely ignorant of its meaning.

This method of writing being attended with many inconveniences; some, it is probable, observing the various combinations of sound, formed a syllabical alphabet, comprehending a great number of simple ones, by which writing was rendered more easy and expeditious. An elementary system of this kind was first used in Ethiopia, or the interior parts of Africa. At last some happy genius arose, who, considering more accurately the primary principles of language, invented the letters now universally used in Europe, and in most parts of the civilized world. His name is unfortunately buried in the darkness of antiquity, without receiving that honor posterity owes, and would certainly have paid him, had he been known.

Cadmus brought sixteen letters from Phenicia to Egypt, or, as some say, from Egypt to Greece. This illustrious character is but little known to posterity. He is said, however, to have been contemporary with Moses and Joshua, or, as some say, with David and Solomon. Plato says, in his Dialogues, that Jath, the Egyptian, was the first who composed an alphabet of consonants and vowels; and his authority, considering his abilities, his regard for truth, and his intimate acquaintance with Egypt, into which he travelled in pursuit of knowledge, may be deemed almost decisive.

The method of executing the mechanical part of the art practi-

sed by the Hebrews, Phenicians, Syrians, Arabians, and even by the ancient Greeks and Romans, was originally from right to left. Afterwards, the habit of writing both from right to left and left to right, was introduced. This double way of writing, as it may be called, continued till the time of Solon, when that of writing from left to right had the preference, which it still retains.

The materials used in this art were often changed. Pillars of stone seem to have been the most ancient. These were probably supplanted in later times by tables of lead. Barks of trees, dressed hides, and boards of wood covered with green wax, were likewise used for the same purpose. Nor was it till the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries that pens, ink, and paper, or parchment, were applied to; an art which by these means, and in these ages, has been surprisingly improved.

The names of the letters in the Greek, Roman, and Hebrew alphabets, being pretty much the same, they seem not improbably to have been derived at first from the Phenicians or Hebrews. At all events, the Greek alphabet may be easily traced to Cadmus; for, by inverting the letters, according to the custom of the Hebrews, a very great similarity may be observed to subsist between these alphabets.

From this brief detail, we are naturally struck with astonishment, at the powers of invention. Well may the mind of man reflect with a mixture of wonder and delight on her own strength, extensive capacity, and the many great and material alterations she has occasioned in the system of things. The principles of reason and taste are certainly characteristic of the species; but what would these principles avail us, independent of that contrivance and activity, those talents of improvement and emulation, by which the track of intelligent beings is thus specifically distinguished? It is this that emancipates our natures from the horrors of savage ferocity, that exalts us so highly above all our brother animals, that subjects the wildest elements to our convenience, and which every where alleviates the gloom that broods over human destiny. Nor does the mind ever discover more force, more ardour, or a more daring spirit of enterprize, than while she recognizes the sovereign influence of all those operative and master-springs by which she thus invents and executes, plans and improves.—*Westminster Mag.*

Washington, Dec. 5, 1815.

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS.

SENATE.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE—Jeremiah Mason, Tho. W. Thompson.
 MASSACHUSETTS—Christopher Gore, Joseph B. Varnum.
 RHODE-ISLAND—William Hunter, Jeremiah B. Howell.
 CONNECTICUT—David Daggett, Samuel W. Dana.
 VERMONT—Dudley Chase, Isaac Tichenor.

NEW-YORK—Rufus King, Nathan Sanford.
 NEW-JERSEY—John Condit, James J. Wilson.
 PENNSYLVANIA—Abner Laycock, Jonathan Roberts.
 DELAWARE—Outerbridge Horsey, William H. Wells.
 MARYLAND—R. H. Goldsborough.
 VIRGINIA—James Barbour.
 NORTH-CAROLINA—James Turner, Francis Locke.
 SOUTH-CAROLINA—John Gaillard, John Taylor.
 GEORGIA—Charles Tait, William B. Bibb.
 KENTUCKY—William T. Barry, Isham Talbot.
 TENNESSEE—George W. Campbell, John Williams.
 OHIO—Jeremiah Morrow, Benjamin Ruggles.
 LOUISIANA—Eligius Fromentin, James Brown.

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Charles A. Atherton	Bradbury Cilly	Jeduthun Wilcox

MASSACHUSETTS.

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Timothy Pickering	Solomon Strong	Cyrus King
Jeremiah Nelson	Elijah Brigham	George Bradbury
Asahel Stearns	Nathaniel Ruggles	Benjamin Brown
Samuel Taggart	William Baylis	Thomas Rice
Elijah H. Mills	Laban Wheaton	Albion K. Parris
James Carr	Samuel S. Connor	

CONNECTICUT.

Epaphroditus Cham- pion	Lyman Law	Lewis B. Sturges
John Davenport, jr.	J. O. Moseley	Benjamin Tallmadge
	Timothy Pitkin	

RHODE-ISLAND.

John L. Boss	James B. Mason
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VERMONT.

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Daniel Chipman	Luther Jewett	John Noyes

NEW-YORK.

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H. Crocheron	John Lovett	Thomas R. Gold
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Peter H. Wendover	John W. Taylor	Moss Kent
Jonathan Ward	John Savage	Victory Birdseye
Abm. H. Schienck	John B. Yates	Enos T. Throop
Thos. P. Grosvenor	Daniel Cady	O. C. Comstock
James W. Wilkin	J. B. Hammond	Peter B. Porter
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NEW-JERSEY.

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Thomas Ward	Benjamin Bennett	E. Bateman

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William Milnor	Wm. Crawford	Jared Irwin

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Wm. Darlington
John Whiteside
Hugh Glasgow
Jas. M. Wallace

John Ross
Samuel D. Ingham
Joseph Heister
William Piper
William Wilson
Thomas Burnside

Aaron Lyle
Isaac Griffin
John Woods
Thomas Wilson
John Sergeant

DELAWARE.

Thomas Cooper

Chas. Clayton

MARYLAND.

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Wm. Pinkney
Nicholas R. Moore

Stephenson Archer
Philip Steward
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A. C. Hanson
George Baer
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Thomas Newton
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Samuel M'Kee
Alney M'Lean

Stephen Ormsby
Sol. P. Sharp
Micah Taul

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N. Cannon

I. B. Reynolds

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David Clendenen
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James Kilbourn
John M'Lean

LOUISIANA—Thomas B. Robertson.

MISSOURI TERRITORY—Rufus Easton.

INDIANA TERRITORY—Jonathan Jennings.

ILLINOIS TERRITORY—Benjamin Stevenson.

MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY—William Lattimore.

THE
AMERICAN MAGAZINE,
 A MONTHLY MISCELLANY,

CONDUCTED BY

HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD, A. M. F. A. A.

Author of a Geography of the United States, a Gazetteer of the State of New-York, &c.:—a Member of the New-York Historical Society, and one of the Counsellors of the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts:—a Member of the American Antiquarian Society, and of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, Massachusetts.

No. 10.

MARCH, 1816.

Vol. I.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

FRIEND SPAFFORD,

I have long had in contemplation, a subject, fit for a Paper in thy valuable Miscellany, and which ought as I suppose, long before now, to have been spread before the Public. If thou shouldst think so, the following is at thy service.

The very great convenience which I have derived from a knowledge of what I have heard called the '*Water Rod*,' has induced me to wish that this knowledge were by far more general. In my intercourse with those around me, I have constantly borne this wish in mind; and judging by the difficulty I have found in my very limited circle, in endeavoring to extend the benefits of this knowledge, I can have little to encourage this effort with the Public. This *Water Rod*, I suppose thou art aware, has been most scurrilously abused by certain persons, as though it pretended to some marvellous powers. No such thing, my friend, nor is there any pretensions to magic, as some wickedly alledge, or witchcraft, in the powers of this truly philosophical Diviner. The '*Rod*' consists of a forked twig, of the last year's growth, taken from the common willow, the peach, plum, or hazel tree, with several other kinds of wood common in this country. It is commonly cut in this form,

 with an inch or two of the stem, below where the tender branches have separated. In order to seek for water, under ground, or to determine where to dig for it, some person who has a steady hand, takes one branch of the fork in each, turning the point *d* upwards, and walks over the ground where you seek for a vein of water. It will be observed that the strength of the twigs held in the hand, is far more than sufficient to sustain the weight of the whole, and in spite of the influence of its mere gravity, to keep the point erect. On this circumstance, is founded the use of the Rod. Passing over ground uniformly dry, to a great depth, or without veins of water-courses, this valuable Instrument stands erect, and as nearly at rest as the motion of the hands will admit of. Resting the hands on some fixture, there is then no other motion than that occasioned by the pulsation of the arteries. But if we pass to some spot, where, at a depth of 10 to 40 or 50 feet in the ground underneath, there is a vein of running

water, the point of the Rod will no longer stand erect, nor remain at rest, even under all the same circumstances of trial as above, until it has first gained a position indicating the actual direction of the water-course. Immediately, on gaining this latter position, it remains at rest, or as nearly so as the counteracting influences which act upon it will admit of. For, the strength of the twigs, firmly held in the hand, are twisted by the effort of the point, while struggling to gain its position pointing downward; the hands being held as before. I have often seen this operation, while searching for a vein of water and a place where to dig a well, and always with the attendant circumstances that I have noticed above. An experienced person, accustomed to searching thus for water, will tell, often, within a very few feet, of the depth at which water may be found, as I have repeatedly seen on digging, having first been present at the search.

There certainly is no deception in this matter. When you try the Rod in a place remote from any water, with the hands entirely at rest; and when you again try it, over any vein which this same Rod may have first discovered to you, the contrast is most striking, as the effect is most sure. Approaching this spot, slowly, holding the hands as still as may be possible, you perceive the Rod beginning to vibrate, as if actuated by an internal sensation; and this motion increases in proportion as you draw near to the water. By these motions, and the strength of the efforts to turn the point downwards, the experienced Observer draws his conclusions respecting the depth and quantity of the water. I believe, also, that the colder the water, or the lower its temperature, compared with that of the atmosphere, and the earth at the surface, the stronger is that influence which produces this effect.

But for the obstinate and astonishing incredulity which has opposed my wishes, in endeavoring to extend the benefit of a knowledge of these facts, I should add no more, having already said enough to instruct those fully, in the art, who seek to learn, and to benefit either themselves, or their neighbors by it. In pursuance of my plan, however, to force conviction on the unwilling, I shall add something more: for I was long an unbeliever in this doctrine myself, even after many respectable eye-witnesses had detailed to me similar results with those above described. My informants were what I thought ignorant men, for they were illiterate, and had none of that knowledge of philosophical science, on which I piqued myself, as being among my principal acquirements at school. After a year or two, in which I suffered great inconvenience from the remoteness of water, constantly bringing it some 60 or 80 rods for the use of a large family, I was prevailed upon to try the value of the Water Rod. The situation was a new one, on the side of a steep hill, though the soil was good and arable, but dry, and liable to suffer severely by drowth, as it did the second summer after I removed to it. No Spring could be found, elevated above the site of my house, from which to derive a supply of water. The late *David Haight*, was then living, in this Town, and he had often searched with the Rod, and found water readily, in places as inauspiciously

situated as was this. So my neighbors told me. David was a very judicious man, a highly favored Preacher, among the Friends, or Quakers here, and though extremely modest and diffident, was readily persuaded to make trial, at my request.

In a time of severe drowth, late in summer, at 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon, he came to my house, attended by some 6 or 8 of my neighbors. We looked about for a willow-bush, from which he cut a fork, the branches of which, principally of the last, or present year's growth, which I do not now recollect, and returned with it to the house. The branches of it were spread, as in the figure, and might be about 15 to 18 inches in length, each. Sitting in my house, he first explained to me the manner of operation; and going from room to room, in order to try it in the house, and finally into one, at the N. E. corner, though over a very deep cellar, he readily told me there was either a *small* vein of water directly under him, and within a depth of 20 feet, or a *large* one at a greater depth. On this, we all went together into the Cellar, where I saw the difference of effect on the Rod, and enough to convince me that there was, in sober reality, something of truth in the stories I had heard. The twigs which David closely clenched in his hands, were literally twisted into splinters, peeling the bark from the wood, by the repeated trials which he showed us. My cellar had been dug about 2 years, and was as dry as I ever saw one. It was separated from the kitchen, only by a chimney and partition, and so dry was it, that we never had occasion for any floor in it. I mention all these facts, so as to present a view of the *whole ground*: for David soon assured me, that in that spot, near the N. E. corner of the cellar, where he drove a stake, I could get water plenty for my family by digging 10 feet. I commenced digging the same day, descended 8 feet exactly, which made about 12 feet below the natural surface of the ground, and found water so plenty, so cold, and good, that I stoned up my well, and found it to afford so much water as often to flow over the top, and always more than enough for all the wants of a family, as it still continues to do.

It was, if I recollect rightly, in the Summer of 1805, that I first saw the efficacy of the Water Rod tested, and learnt the certainty of its use and importance. Several, if not all of the persons who witnessed the above experiments with it, with those I am going to mention, are yet living, with the exception of David himself, who has been deceased several years. But all these facts are perfectly notorious among the people of this vicinity, with a vast many others of the same kind.

After I had seen the effect of the Rod, as noted above, we proceeded to the adjoining fields, and traversed them in every direction, without finding, any where, so *strong a draft*, as he called it, or so powerful an action of the Rod, as in that place in the cellar. We cut a variety of rods, trying every kind of wood within our reach, but none seemed to act so powerfully as that from the willow. In one other place, and only one, within 50 or 60 rods from the house, did we find any indications of water. This was about

30 rods distant, in a large pasture field, which had no water for its summer stock, nearer than about 80 or 100 rods.

It was the opinion of David that at this place, a small vein of water might be found at something less than 20 feet, though he thought much less in quantity than that under the house. We drove a stake at the spot, and during the next, or perhaps the same summer, a well was dug there, which opened two or three very small veins of water, at depths of 13 and 17 feet. These veins were in thin strata of fine blue clay, occurring in a very compact hard-pan, composed of flinty pebble-stone and flint-rock, and a gritty clay-earth. The veins were lined with a white silicious sand, very fine, and free from any kind of mixture. The well was sunk several feet below the largest vein, which was at 17 feet below the surface, through a perfectly dry and very ponderous hard-pan. It has never failed to afford water for the cattle.

The hill on which these sources of supply, so much needed, were thus found, has a sharp declivity to the W, affords no other springs that I know of, is one of the dryest in this country, and is situated near the N. E. corner of the Town of Chatham, 18 miles, about S. E. from Albany, and but a few rods from the New-Britain Meeting House.

Having now done with a detail of my facts, which every person may verify by taking half as much trouble in extending his inquiries, as I have taken to invite him to the task, and for his own benefit, I will add, that among my acquaintances I have found none so incredulous on this subject, as those who rest in the confidence of a fulness of knowledge, derived from the books of science and philosophy. To a certain extent, this confidence may be right, as may the incredulity, which it often produces. Philosophy, built on facts, should certainly dwell upon them. To doubt, where you cannot assign a cause, is a maxim of philosophy: but wherefore should this lead us to overlook demonstration? even though the cause be hidden? Can any man explain all causes? Do we know the composition of the electric fluid; and can we explain the causes by which its effects are produced? Do we understand the composition of the many visible and invisible fluids, with which we are acquainted? What is magnetism, or the cause of polar direction? What is the cause of gravity? or what, even, constitutes the difference between what we term the electric and Galvanic fluids, about which we know so much?

I was transplanting some beets, after a hard shower, when the ground was literally soaked with water. The main roots were very small, but about 3 or 4 inches in length, and there were many small fibrous branches, extending obliquely downward, none of which projected more than 1 inch from the main root. With a sharpened stick, round, and tapering to a point, 3 1-2 inches diameter at the top, I made holes in the ground, for my beet-roots: but when I attempted to set them into the ground, the point of the root was drawn one side, and attached to the wall, if I may so call it, of the hole, and so forcibly, that it refused to descend; while every little fibre stood erect from the stem, pointing more directly, to that

part of the ground which was the nearest. Is this attraction? It is by far more observable after thunder-showers, and in warm showery weather, when the atmosphere is highly charged with electricity. Who can explain this? The point of a root, 3 or 4 inches in length, will sometimes be so strongly drawn to one side as to bend an inch or more, from the line of its natural direction. When the ground is very dry, nothing of this kind can be perceived; and the root may readily be conducted down the hole. Is the Water Rod affected in the same way as this Root? Other roots than those of the beet, show the same symptoms of effect as those, though none that I know of are affected so powerfully.

Were I a much younger man, and of course a much greater philosopher, I might possibly undertake to explain to thee the cause of the operation of this Water Rod, to the wonders of which I am become a convert, without knowing much about the philosophy of either cause or effect. As it is, however, I shall content myself with relating the effects that I have witnessed, and leave the explanation of causes to others; being, as thou wilt acknowledge, much better qualified for observing and relating facts such as these, than for reasoning upon them.

Thy Friend,

AGRICOLA.

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For the American Magazine.

DEISM. INFIDELITY.

Μεγα βιβλίον, μεγα κάποι.

On fait souvent tort à la vérité par la manière dont on se sert pour la défendre.

Do not be alarmed, Christian Reader, at my selection of the words that stand at the head of this Essay; nor offended with my choice. These terms have long engaged my meditations; but the more particularly am I induced to give them their present place, because I am no advocate for Deism or Infidelity. It has long appeared to me that much mischief arises to the interests of Religion, from a cause, which, so far as I have been able to discover, is too generally overlooked by its advocates: I mean the want of definite meanings, attached to terms, without which there is little use in language. The subjects presented by my mottos, have often engaged my attention. Learning is very generally incumbered with too many books, and a great book is truly a great evil: And nothing is more certain than that an injury is frequently done to the cause of truth, by the manner in which some men attempt to defend it. In theology, I have thought, more particularly, and in the discussions and labors which it produces, it unfortunately happens that these remarks have a bearing as unfavorable as they are applicable. With all possible humility and thankfulness of heart,

I here avow myself an advocate for the glorious liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ;—for Christianity, because that I think I am a Christian :—and because that, in this belief, I enjoy an effulgence of faith and hope that I could most devoutly wish were extended to all mankind. It is not, then, to plead for Deism, or Infidelity, that I have taken the pen. These doctrines have had their advocates in the present age; and there have not been wanting among them men of the brightest natural talents, possessing great learning, and actuated by a zeal worthy a better cause. Among these there have even been some Deists, who seem to have gloried in a fool-hardy profanation, as undisguised as malignant in aspersion upon the character of the immaculate Jesus. Of this description, however, I have the consolation to believe there have been but a few :—But perhaps these few were men of the most depraved hearts—debased by criminal sensualities, and a grossness of indulgence that ill comports with the very preservation of a moral sense. May God have been merciful to their souls :—they have ceased from their labors, ‘and their works do follow them.’ Dreadful thought! It becomes us to be admonished by a remembrance of their works. There have been others who were merely the advocates for the sufficiency of Natural Religion, which I conceive to be Deism; and among the men of this description we find some who are uniformly very humane and benevolent in their dispositions and conduct amongst their fellow-men. Others have been the apologists of those;—or have attacked the abuses of religion, and wickedly condemned the religion of Christianity, because of the faults and follies they have descried among its professors. From all these sources, and a great many others that I have not time to enumerate, innumerable volumes of books have been produced : and happy had it been if the errors of fanaticism had only been found among the labors of the Deists and Infidels. Perhaps I may as well here define my meaning, of such terms as I may have occasion to use. By an Infidel, I mean one, who, on light grounds, because not seriously inclined to investigate the truths of religion, rejects it all as fabulous; or, at least, because he does not wish to give himself any great care or trouble, in order to understand it. I hardly need add, that to such a man, the heathen mythologies of every kind, Judaism, Mahommedanism, and not only the Christianity of the Gospel, but the Religion of all the various sects of professing Christians—to him all appear, according to what he knows, or cares to know, much the same.

The Pagan, may be religious, in his way, or observant of the rites of some heathen religion, but is uninstructed in a knowledge of the Scriptures, and the written Word of God. He may or may not have a serious and thoughtful cast of mind; or a belief in a God, or a future state of rewards and punishments.

By a Deist, I mean one not a Pagan, but who is acquainted, more or less, with the Scriptures—who believes in a God—but rejects all belief in Divine revelation. He may or may not believe in a state of future existence, rewards and punishments, free-agency, and accountability, &c., but obstinately denies the doctrine of the

appearance, the revelations, mediation and atonement of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Perhaps, in these definitions, I may differ from some others ; but I have defined my meaning as nearly as possible, according to my own understanding. If others would do the same, we should at least have the advantage of knowing whether or not we can understand the meaning of each other. My object is to be fully understood : and if I err in doctrine, or in the application of terms, I am still as ready to acknowledge and abandon error, as to seek truth. And while my most solemn convictions urge me to this inquiry, in a spirit of gospel liberty and plainness, though I must freely state my own views, yet I shall endeavor to avoid all unnecessary subjects of polemical theology. If I am willing for any controversy, it is only that I may ' contend earnestly for that faith which was once delivered unto the Saints.' Jude, 3. ' The Church,' for which I plead, embraces all those, who, ' by the washing of regeneration, and receiving of the Holy Ghost,' Titus iii, 5. have, or may, embrace this faith, even from the beginning to the end of the world. Now—although, in the course of these remarks I propose to say something more of Infidelity; yet my principle object will be to examine the nature and tendency of the doctrines of Deism, and of the writings of those who have written against the Deists and their doctrines. The opponents of Deism, have been the professors of Christianity. And here I shall take occasion to define my meaning when I speak of a Christian, as contradistinguished from a Pagan, an Infidel, or Deist ;—and not only so, but distinguishing between a Christian, and a merely nominal or formal professor of the leading doctrines of Christianity. When I speak of a Christian, I mean one, who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, has been made a subject of the new birth, the regeneration, by which he has received a new faith, whereby he is enabled to call Jesus Christ Lord, the Son of the living God, and the mediator for the redemption of his own soul. This, as I conceive, is the only source of that faith which gives to the immortal soul the blessedness of the name of Christian, or disciple of Christ. ' Flesh and blood,' nor all the traditions, or institutions, or the learning and the wits and powers of man, have ever yet revealed it unto any that Jesus is, indeed, ' the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Mat. xvi., 16, 17, 18. This is what the Father, who is in Heaven, could alone reveal ; and it is ' on this rock,' as I conceive, that is, revelation, by the Spirit of God, that the church of God is built, and so sure that ' the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' Such are my views, and in stating them I am not pleading for the doctrines of any one Sect among Christians, but for what I conceive to be a prominent and distinguishing feature of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To the Jews, this doctrine was, peculiarly, a stumbling-block ; and to the Greeks foolishness, as it still is to every natural mind. The Jews had faith in prophecy, and the revelations of God by the Holy Ghost, and looked for the Messiah, but required a sign ; and the Greeks looked for wisdom, that is, the wisdom of the natural mind :—but the Cross of Christ confounded both Jews and Gentiles. But—I

need not dwell on this matter, though I feel anxious to have its importance clearly understood. St. Paul says, 'no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost : ' I Cor. xii, 3 ; and if none can say this but by the light of the Spirit of God, dawning in the mind, none surely can be Christians, strictly speaking, who have not this light. I suppose all are agreed that the receiving this light, is the seal of regeneration, or the new-birth : and we read of many followers of Jesus, who had publickly professed their faith, and even been baptised, or washed in water, who had not yet received the Holy Ghost, nor even heard whether there be any. In the 58th year of the Christian era, ' Paul, having passed through the upper coasts, came to Ephesus : and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed ? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.' Acts xix, 1, 2. St. Paul further assures us that the body is become ' the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God,' I Cor. vi, 19 ;—and again, ' Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you ? ' I Cor. iii. 16 ; and this I take to be the effect of regeneration. I may further add, that, as I conceive, all true knowledge, imparted to man in this life, is derived from this source. In infinite kindness and condescension, the Great Author of our being, compassionating the blindness and waywardness of our fallen nature, has bestowed on us the gift of the graces of His Holy Spirit. Now—as without this gift, ' this washing of regeneration, and receiving of the Holy Ghost,' Titus iii, 5, we cannot see God, or enter into the kingdom of Heaven, John iii, 3, so without it we cannot comprehend the things that belong to our own salvation. Without the light of the Spirit, we can in no wise discern a right of spiritual things. And further—if without this light no one can become, indeed, a Christian, it follows of course, that a mere formal or traditional adherence to the rites of Christianity, does not enable men to comprehend the mysteries of the Christian faith, or qualify them to become its Apostles or Teachers. What men cannot discern, for themselves, they certainly are not qualified to teach to others. Nay—without this light, which I humbly conceive to be always the effect of inspiration, the mind has only the light of nature to guide it—and however learned, or zealous, in its way, cannot have that zeal for God, and Godliness, which is truly evangelical. God is the only source of knowledge ; and every soul, regenerated, is a soul inspired of God. Without this inspiration, whatever we be, we cannot be Christians—' the children of God : and if children, then heirs ; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ : ' Romans viii, 17. Nor ' sons ' of God, as we find those called in another place, who have received this ' spirit of adoption.' Galatians iv. 7.—Romans viii. 15.—Rom. viii. 26. ' The spirit also helpeth our infirmities : for we know not what we should pray for as we ought ; but the spirit itself maketh intercession for us,' &c. ' For what man knoweth the things of a man,' saith St. Paul, I Corinthians ii. 11, 12, 13, 14, ' save the spirit of man which is in him ? even so the things of God knoweth

no man, but the spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the World, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit; for they are foolishness unto him; *neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.* Now—I know very well that education stamps on the mind a certain bias, and gives a kind of tone, if I may so express myself, to all its views. A child may be designed by his Parents, for some profession, and educated accordingly; and it is rare if education and habit do not produce this certain tone or character of mind—and make of them a bias stronger than any other derived from the mere light of nature. Let him grow up to manhood, in these views, and he will have no lack of confidence or of zeal. Suppose him designed for the Ministry, educated according to the strictest religion of some Sect, he has no doubts left about him, and his zeal is unbounded. As to the teachings of the spirit, he hath not even heard ‘whether there be any Holy Ghost.’ But he is zealous for God! Yes he has a zeal—and so had Saul—and like him he is a persecutor. - Gal. iv. 29. And like Saul, being unenlightened by the power of the spirit of God, although he may have been sent, by Men, to preach Jesus Christ, yet he is not a Christian! Here, Reader, I pause. For herein is a great mystery, which ‘The World,’ in the sense used by our blessed Savior, can never fully comprehend. The religion of nature is Deism: or rather, Deism, *is* the religion of nature. Mixed up with this, is a great mass of the traditions of men—and men have combined to send a Deist forth as a teacher of Christianity! But what is a Deist? The answer is given already, and need not be repeated; and I think I have clearly shown that all mankind are born Deists. The sin of unbelief is entailed upon all the posterity of Adam. It is the penalty of the fall of Man. The faith of Christianity is given but by inspiration; and God only can give this inspiration. However much he may profess, he who has not learned Christ in this school, knows not, indeed, ‘that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God;’ Mat. xvi. how, then, can he instruct others in that which he knows not for himself! These, my Christian Reader, have great zeal for making proselytes; for which they ‘compass sea and land;’ Mat. xxiii. 15. and herein, painful as is the assurance, do I view a most fruitful source of that Infidelity, which is extending its ravages over the world. It is impossible that any can teach Christ, who have not learned Christ: and if there be those who assume the office of Teachers, who have not, themselves, the teachings of the spirit, then there are still Scribes, as in the days of our Savior: and if Scribes, Pharisees. Of whatever name, or sect, whether Jew, or Gentile; Pagan, Deist, Infidel, or Christian, I pray you Reader, to pause, here, and meditate. This doctrine deserves all your attention. When men of this description enter the lists with the Deists, though they may think themselves the Champions of the Cross, yet they contend with the weapons of the

Crown of this world, having a zeal without knowledge; while Infidelity thus finds advocates, instead of the religion of the meek and lowly Jesus. The Deist is hardened in his heart, and turns in disgust from those who so advocate the religion of grace. I have so often contemplated this picture, in all its sober realities and fearful bearings, that I feel a solemn assurance I am not drawing it in fanciful colors, or with distorted features. And I do most earnestly entreat my Readers to meditate seriously on these things. The most deadly wounds which Christianity has received, have been thus inflicted by its pretended friends. Far be it from me to harbor the thought that all these men are chargeable with the dreadful sin of hypocrisy. The conscience, invaluable as it is, in a moral point of view, to the natural mind, is no infallible guide. Saul, persecuting the Church of God, may have acted as conscientiously, as when preaching and prophesying, in that Church. He, too, had once rejected the doctrine of divine revelation—had not recognised the physician of souls—and Saul had been a Deist! But the light of the spirit shone upon him, and Saul became obedient to the voice of Jesus of Nazareth. Paul, the Apostle, having found that faith and light which the spirit of God can give, no longer abides in the confidence or faith of nature; he is converted to Christianity, and hath its seat in his heart, and in his soul. Zealous in the strictest sect of the Jewish religion, he had lived a Pharisee; nor was his zeal less ardent as a Christian. Let us stay these remarks while we again peruse his writings. They are full of the doctrines which I advance; and, in my opinion, there are none in the whole volume of Holy Writ, more deeply instructive, to the mind which is spiritually enlightened: Nor are there any more confounding to the wits of the natural mind. Deep, and profound, in conception, as bold and sublime in doctrine, they are replete with instruction to the mind renewed by the power of the spirit; but to the mere light of nature, they are a light shining in a dark place, 'and the darkness comprehendeth it not', John. i. 5. Hence it happens that the Deist, the Infidel, and even the Deistical Scribe, though learned in the Law, and the letter of human theology, all stumble alike at these writings, and count them for foolishness. Whatever the spirit hath written, in all ages of the world, is a sealed book, which none but 'the Lion of the tribe of Juda' can open. Rev. v. 5. If we have not this key, 'the key of David,' Rev. iii. 7. which openeth and no man can shut, and shutteth and no man can open, it is in vain that we puzzle our brains in attempting to expound whatever hath been written or spoken by the spirit and power of the Holy Ghost. God, only, is the source of light—but man will not seek light from this source; and herein is our condemnation. Were there no Teachers, spiritually blind, who undertake to instruct the world in the great truths and duties of Christianity, men would soon learn to see eye-to-eye. At least, as there is 'one Lord, one faith, one baptism,' Eph. iv. 5. so it should be that all those who have been 'baptised with the Holy Ghost,' Mat. iii. 11, Mark. i. 8. and found this faith, and professed this Lord, should 'be of good comfort, of one mind, and live in peace, that the God of love and peace might be

with us.' II. Cor. xiii. 11; Phil. i. 27. 'God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions,' Eccl. vii. 29; and we need not here stop to say, that the natural mind is prone to adhere to these, even in violation of the express commands of God. 'But, in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men,' saith the scripture, making the 'commandment of God of none effect, by your tradition.' Mat. xv. 9. and 3. 'Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, Put your burnt-offering unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh. For I spake not unto your Fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt-offerings or sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people. Jer. vii. 21, 22, 23.

I have dwelt much longer on this topic, than may be thought necessary, by many, and perhaps the most of my Readers. But I was anxious to present it for consideration, thinking its importance too generally overlooked. Men, in old-time, following the inclinations, and the light of nature, were no less prone to go astray from the positive commandments of God, than they are now to depart from His Will, made manifest to us by the operation of the Holy Ghost, 'whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place.' II Pet. i. 19. But it is impossible that the Deist can have this light; as it is, also, that any can have the true light of Christianity, without it. There is, in the mind of every man, so enlightened, a certain something that bears witness, as it were, for the doctrines of truth: and I even doubt if the mind of any, unregenerated, ever enjoys this witness. The heart of man hath its sympathies;—so hath the soul: and the faculties and perceptions of each differ in kind and degree, as matter from spirit. The soul is the gift of God, & specially, to every body; and this soul, strange & incomprehensible as the doctrine may seem to the natural mind, hath the attributes and faculties of the divine nature, but in what degree, becomes not us to attempt to conceive. We know that when the body dies, 'the spirit shall return unto God who gave it,' and that it is immortal. Ecclesiastes xii. 7. The Deist may have a kind of belief in the immortality of the soul, and so may the Pagan; but the full effulgence of that faith which the saint enjoys under the Christian dispensation, was reserved to be manifested by the manifestation of the spirit in the flesh, in the Person of the Son of God. And this remark brings to our view, the blessedness reserved for the Christian. If the Deist cannot conceive of this blessedness, let us not reproach him with the sin of Infidelity, or harden our hearts toward him. God, who worketh by means so far beyond our comprehension, may yet call him to His feast of love, disclosing to him the boundless riches of His grace, and the brighter glories of a world beyond the grave. Seriously as I am affected by the considerations that now press on my mind, I cannot contemplate the conduct of many professing Christians whom I have known, in relation to this matter, without absolute horror. I have seen the self-righteous Scribe, or the learned Pharisee, assuming the rights of Deity, sitting in judgment, and hurling denunciation among those whom God

had not yet awakened, and blessed with the light of his grace ! This, I think, is not the way for Christians, who would plead for God and his Christ, seeking for the blessedness of calling many to righteousness, and the glorious light and liberty of the Gospel. Whether or not the men who thus act can be the true ministers of this light, or are enlightened by it, it belongs only to God to judge ; and yet it is the duty of man to consider of these matters.

I may here remark, that, in my opinion, the natural mind is only constrained to obedience, even to the positive commands of God, solely by an impulse of fear : the regenerated, converted soul, obeys by the impulse of love. The Deist cannot love God ; but the Christian can, and does, or he ceases to be a Christian. To the real Christian, there is not, necessarily and invariably, an idea of terror connected with that of the Divine Majesty : but the Deist, on whom Jehovah hath not shed the light of a reconciled countenance, beholds in the Majesty of Omnipotence, a display of power that forbids the offering of love. The Christian, then, should compassionate the case of the benighted Deist, and seek to afford him all possible consolation : Benighted he is, as respects what I may call the soul of religion, though he may be even surrounded with its body, or at least its dress. He may even have been strictly educated in the religion of some Sect, and have joined in its rites and ceremonies ;—but finding no life and light in it, he may yet be a Deist, or abiding entirely in the light of nature, and may, indeed, descend from Deism, to the more dreadful state of Infidelity. I believe there are few, comparatively speaking, of confirmed Infidels, who have not commenced their career in a disrelish of religion, conceived in this way. Surrounded by its parade and apparatus, and disgusted with a display so dull and uninteresting, they flee, for liberty, to an opposite extreme. There may be, and I know there are, other causes, and other circumstances, co-operating with such as I have stated ; and I have no hesitation in saying that Deism, horrid as it seems, to the mind of the real Christian, is still far less to be deplored than Infidelity ;—and that it is infinitely more excusable than hypocrisy, for which there is no possible pretext, nor any apology. There certainly ought to be no such thing as fashion, in making men profess religion. ‘ Shall a Nation be born at once ? ’ said Isaiah, ‘ for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. ’ Isaiah xvj. 8. If I am mistaken, I cannot help it ; but I believe this human haste that we see every where around us, and the rage of proselytism, have been the means of spreading Deism and Infidelity, much faster and wider, than the world, at the present day, seems to imagine :—as the semblance of belief, has, of spreading the evils attendant on unbelief. Without dwelling on this matter, I entreat my Readers, to make it the subject of their serious thoughts. No one can more earnestly long for the universal spread of evangelical religion, than the writer of these remarks. God has nowhere left himself without a witness, neither among Jews or Gentiles, bond or free : for in ‘ Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, ’ Heb. xii. 2. and in the manifestations of the Holy Ghost, there is a glorious sufficiency for ‘ every creature which is under heaven. ’ Col. i. 23.

CLERICUS.

HAVING often witnessed the inconvenience arising from the dripping of a very dirty and offensive liquor from Stove-pipes, I have long been endeavoring to discover some remedy. The cause of the collection, or rather the production of this water, is very obvious. In large apartments, and especially in churches, where the air of the room has necessarily very unequal degrees of heat, the water is collected more copiously, and the inconvenience is more sensibly felt. Were the air of the room uniformly of the same temperature throughout, this effect would be productive of little inconvenience, as there would be none of this watery discharge, except the little that might arise from the steam supplied by the combustion of undried fuel: And the collection of this would be counteracted by the uniformity of heat in the pipe; so that it may be doubted if ever water would drop from it unless the pipe had become very foul. These drippings are always more copious when the fire is just kindled, and diminish as the air of the room approximates that of the pipe, constantly immersed in it. I suppose that, were it practicable to exclude all the external air from contact with the sooty concretions of even a foul stove-pipe, no water would be collected from the air of the room. Softened by heat, and the steam that first issues from the fire, this sooty matter has a greedy affinity for water, which it extracts alike from the smoke, and the air of the room, drawn through the joints. And because, from these sources, the accumulation of water, gains on the evaporation of it, by the heat of the pipe, it soon begins to issue in drops from the joints. Perhaps I may be wrong in some of my inferences, but I have taken a good deal of pains to be well assured of the facts from which they are drawn.

As to a remedy—I am yet in some degree of doubt. At any rate, the pipes should never be permitted to get very foul. Were they made of polished metal, so that both the internal and external surfaces were quite smooth, they would neither get foul so quick, nor collect the water so rapidly when foul: nor would they give out their heat so readily to the surrounding air. But if not polished, the smoother the better, as respects getting foul, and collecting these dirty drippings. They should also, for the same reasons, be kept from rust. I have taken a single joint of very rusty old pipe, and after burning it out perfectly clean, placed it between joints of new and uncommonly smooth pipe,* leading from a stove in my Office to the chimney, where I kept a constant fire. After some 6 or 8 weeks, the pipe became foul, emitted an offensive stench of soot in the morning, and began to emit water. Observing that the water first issued from the rusty pipe, which I had placed there solely for the purpose of experiment, I raised it in such a manner that it should lie above the horizontal line of the other joints, and that the water might discharge from it into the next joint, descending cou-

* I do not know the description of this sheet-iron, which I have but lately observed, and which is the best for this use I ever saw, but I purchased the pipe of J. Spencer & Co., S. Market Street, Albany.

siderably toward the chimney. But the dripping continued, from the lower end of this, and also from the next joint; and after 2 weeks more I took down the whole, for examination. The smooth pipe was entirely new, when put up, and the rusty piece was not added until after 2 or 3 weeks, and at about half the distance from the elbow to the chimney. The soot was nearly as thick again, in this piece, as in any other, except that immediately in advance of the elbow. After burning it all out, alike, I replaced the pipe, and used it without affording any drippings until late in the winter, when they again began to issue from the rusty pipe, raised as before described. At this time I happened to attend Divine Service, on a cold morning, in one of the Churches in this City, where a long stove-pipe emitted this sooty stench, and was constantly disturbing the people by its dirty drippings. It then occurred to me to try one other experiment, from which I have considerable hopes. Should it appear, from this connection, that I made too much haste about it, I shall still expect the indulgence of such as had their gowns spoiled on that day, a number by no means inconsiderable. *The experiment.* I took 3 pieces of pipe, about 2 inches in diameter larger than that I had been using, into which I inserted the pipe from my stove, so as to enclose the rusty piece, and one other at each end of it, luting the joints and the ends of the large pipe so as to exclude the air. I also put some small pieces of bricks between the large and small pipes, so as to keep the space between them as uniform as I could. This experiment succeeded so far as to prevent the dripping, for the remainder of the season, and considerably to diminish the sooty stench, which was only observable a little in the morning. On taking down the stove, after the weather had become warm, I found, as before, more soot in the rusty pipe, than in the others;—but it was also much more dry and crumbling, and less adhesive, in the three pieces so enclosed, than in any of the others.

From all these speculations and experiments, I am strongly inclined to a belief that a double-pipe, in the manner I have described, will probably be found a remedy for the evil of which I have been speaking. I know that this method is more expensive, and I have only to wish that some better one may be found out, and published for the benefit of the public. It was my intention to delay publishing this until I should have further opportunity for collecting additional facts, the result of other experiments;—but that period is probably remote, and I am forbidden by a single consideration, imperious as it is important: I have experimented, in this way, quite long enough. Following the example of *other great men*, retiring from Office—here is my Valedictory. I am poor, and in debt. I must give all my attention to other pursuits, and devote the remainder of my life to Mammon, a god I have never propitiated, and whose service I dread with abhorrence.

SCRUTATOR.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

I do not recollect to have read, or heard, that any person had ever witnessed the exhibition of an *Aurora Borealis* in the day time, and when the air was perfectly clear, and the sky unclouded. It is some years since I witnessed this, in company with many other persons; and having spoken of it to some friends, lately, in New-York, I have been solicited to communicate the facts to the public. If you think them worth publishing, they are at your service.

I do not, now, precisely recollect the year, but it was about 1806, that I was employed, during several successive days, in surveying some lands near the N. E. extremity of the county of Columbia, in the state of New-York. The lands, comprising 3 or 4 farms, were to be subdivided among the heirs of a person then lately deceased, and were situated on some of the highest hills of that county. I was, of course, constantly attended by some 8, 10, and even 20 persons, of the parties concerned, who all witnessed what I am going to relate. It was late in autumn; and so cold that ice formed every night, and hardly all disappeared during the day. The air was very transparent, and, so far as I now recollect, none or but very few clouds to be seen. For several nights in succession, the Northern Lights shone pretty bright, in the valley, where I slept, but disappeared in the morning. On mounting these hills, at about 11 o'clock, we were surprised to witness the streaks and flashes of the *Aurora Borealis*, occupying the same place that they had done the night before, and so bright and luminous as to command our astonishment and admiration. The streaks were as clearly defined as during the night, and very considerably brighter than the field of the surrounding sky. Not a cloud was to be seen, at least during 2 or 3 hours; while we narrowly watched the exhibition of this splendid phenomenon. On the next, and 2 or 3 of the succeeding days, we saw the same appearances, at intervals; and through the intervening nights, the *Aurora* was quite bright. I inquired at the time, and frequently afterwards, and could find no person who had noticed it in the day time, excepting those who had been on the hills, in our party. Probably others may have observed it, and I regret that I had not sooner made public the result of our observations. I know that these appearances could not be discovered from the valleys around us, at the time we saw them, because several of our party made the experiment. I have only further to observe that during this exhibition, the air was very clear, and uncommonly bright, for several days. The streams of light from the North, frequently shot up quite over our heads, and seemed to diverge every way, as from a point, situated a very little below the visible horizon.

I shall be glad to learn if others have ever observed similar appearances under such circumstances, and to see the observations of the learned on this singular and interesting occurrence.

New-York, Feb. 18, 1816.

W.

CABINET OF MINERALOGY.

I HARDLY know if any apology be necessary, on presenting the following 'Circular,' to the Readers and Patrons of the American Magazine. It was widely distributed, among my Correspondents in the state of New-York, and has procured me a good deal of aid, toward making the Collection that I proposed. It is true I have done less toward perfecting it than I proposed to do, in this long period of time: but the remark is equally applicable to all that I have undertaken, whether the fault be all mine or not. Still I have done something, and expect to do more. My Collection already embraces several hundred Samples, and I have exchanged such as I could spare, for the productions of other countries. A distinguished Foreigner, connected with the French Cabinet of Mineralogy, has proffered me some other exchanges of this kind, with his aid in enabling me to get the benefit of similar exchanges from other states of Europe. This is, at least, something. Were my resources adequate to my zeal in this cause, I should do much more, and with greater expedition. As it is, I can but repeat my former request, though I only expect to see my design fully executed at a period still remote. If it even extend to my old age, I suppose I must be contented, though every one else should grow impatient, and wonder at the delay. At least I can promise that I will preserve all my Samples, and this I hope will prevent any from neglecting to favor me with whatever they may collect. Nor will I fail to advance in my object with all the expedition in my power, or to inform those, occasionally, who may aid me in it, concerning its progress.

EDITOR.

(CIRCULAR.)

I HAVE long been wishing to see a Cabinet formed, comprising all the valuable Ores, Minerals, and Fossils of this State. And as I have, for several years past, kept this object in constant view, and have made some little collections, I have now determined to devote more time and attention to its execution. The importance of such a Collection, to the interests of science and the arts, will be readily perceived. And while every intelligent citizen is aware of its importance, and the great difficulty and expense of making and arranging it, it is to be hoped that no one will fail to contribute his aid, and in such way as will be the least expensive and burdensome. Samples are wanted of every ore of the metals found in this state, and of every mineral and fossil substance, either known to be useful, or supposed capable of being made so. To enumerate them all, or to attempt any general enumeration, would be useless here. Every person conversant with mineralogy, knows that the varieties and kinds which this state must yield, are very numerous; and it must be left to every one to select and forward such as he may deem of some importance in such a Collection. The ores of Iron, form, perhaps, an object of the first magnitude; and of all these I would wish to collect Samples, as well from the old and

wrought mines, as from all those newly discovered and unwrought. The ores of lead and those of copper, with all such combinations as are supposed to contain some silver, will of course be considered important in this Collection: While the various combinations of lime, though less splendid, are of equal importance with any of the products of our State. In the *Gazetteer of New-York*, I have enumerated the known mineralogical products, with some regard to their relative value; and I will now take the liberty to refer my Correspondents to the article *Mineralogy*, page 23. At least, my Collection ought to comprise every article of that enumeration; and I hope that every Correspondent for the *Gazetteer*, will consider himself personally interested in this address. Every sample of an ore, mineral, or fossil, should be accompanied with some information of the place, and local situation where it was found, together with the known or supposed quantity thereof, with the indications, &c. Samples of marble, should always be sent with some polished, and some unpolished surfaces. Gypsum, or plaster, is an important article; and the samples of this valuable substance should embrace as great a variety as may be; as well because they usually have different degrees of purity, as to guard against disappointments: A kind of magnesian lime-stone, is often mistaken by those searching for Gypsum, for that substance.

The Meeting of the Legislature, will probably afford many opportunities for forwarding samples to this City, from every part of the state. And as it will be obvious that no money can be made by this undertaking, it can hardly be necessary to say that it is desirable to avoid any considerable expense. Contributors to the Collection will be duly regarded in the Catalogue, whenever one shall become necessary; and should the undertaking receive that attention from the public, which I am well persuaded it merits, it may become necessary, by-and-by, to publish the result of these labors. In that case, every considerable Contributor shall be entitled to a copy of such publication, on paying one half the price at which it shall be sold to others. This, it is believed, will be the only compensation which the nature of the undertaking will warrant me in proffering to its patrons: while to them, in common with myself, will be adjudged the thanks of the numerous patrons and friends of the arts and sciences, with the general approbation of an enlightened community. It would be easy to enlarge, and to urge the claims of the State on every Citizen for some service; and to dilate on the utility and importance of the kind of service to which I now invite attention. But I forbear to echo what every intelligent citizen will pronounce the public sentiment; and will only say that in every co-operation which that may adjudge to me, I will endeavor to discharge my duty with the best ability I may possess, for the public good. With much respect, thy friend,

HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD.

Albany, 1 Mo. 1, 1815.

MEDICAL ELECTRICITY.

THERE have been so many, and such widely varying opinions, concerning the application of Electricity to Medical purposes ;—for the alleviation of pain, and the prevention and cure of diseases, that the subject has, at various times and in many countries, engaged a good deal of attention. Still, however, the controversy is undecided—and there are, among men of the highest pretensions to Medical, and general science, those who confidently maintain ground entirely opposite in opinion. I am not about attempting, either to interfere as a peace-maker, or to revive any controversy. Possibly the doctrines of both sides may have been, in some degree, conceived and defended in error ; perhaps both parties have been in the wrong, which is very possible ; or both may have been, in some degree, in the right. It is much easier to oppose any doctrine, than to defend it ; because, an objection is easily made, to almost any thing. But whatever may have been, heretofore, the ground-work of the discordant opinions, on this subject, I can but hope that a fair investigation of the merits of Medical Electricity, and its pretensions, among the means of the Healing Art, will soon challenge the public attention, and continue to do so until the great question is fairly and candidly examined and decided. I know that well attested Cases, of very important cures, have often, and long since, been published ; and I also know, or confidently believe, that during the practise from which Cases of cures have resulted, other Cases have occurred in which the application of Electricity has been productive of harm ; in which, in short, it has done much more harm than good. This result has probably happened more frequently than the advocates for Medical Electricity have been willing to acknowledge, or believe ; for it is not possible that an Agent so powerful as I know this to be, can be so very harmless as seems to have been too commonly imagined. It has, undoubtedly, been most imprudently used ; and much of the discredit into which it has fallen, may have arisen from this source. It is very certain that the opponents of this practise, have watched all its faults and follies with an eager eye : and there have been faults and follies on both sides. Men are ever disposed, on the one hand, to convert every favorite into an Idol ; and on the other, to change this idol into a Demon. Such is a natural consequence of that zeal which defends a favorite theory, and opposes it : such is the natural consequence of human controversy. Why it is so, let those inquire who would sacrifice propriety and truth, in defending opinions, rather than abandon error for the sake of truth.

But, it is time to explain the object of this article. Thomas Brown, of Troy, a singular, plodding kind of original character, has long been busying himself with Electricity and Electrical machines. He has effected some considerable improvements, as he says, in the management of the Electric Fluid, and has been very successful in his application of it to Medical purposes. It seems to have been his opinion, from the first, that this result was to be expected, from a due application of this Agent : and, fortified by these persuasions,

he has evinced a singular degree of patience, and of laborious and persevering investigation. He is preparing to revive the practise, and to defend the theory of Medical Electricity : And he comes forward well prepared, or at least well fortified, for the task—being backed by numerous testimonies in his favor, as well arising from his own practise, as from the writings of his predecessors. Though not a man of learning, he has read a great deal ; and few men have ever made themselves more thoroughly acquainted with what had been written on any subject.

The plan he has adopted, is certainly a very good one, and well calculated, both for the success of his purpose, and for a full elucidation of the subject of Medical Electricity, with its comparative merits and importance in the Healing Art. His plan is to keep an accurate Journal of his practise, fair and honest in every particular ; and then to let his collection of facts bear record, either for or against him. Such an undertaking, at least merits the approbation of every friend to legitimate science and sound philosophy ; and it is to be hoped that he may meet with success, and at least be honored with the indulgence and consideration which his labors may justly merit.

Ed.

ON HAPPINESS.

It is consistent with reason to suppose, that a subject which has been more or less handled by the pen of every moralist since the world had a being, should in the space of three or four thousand years have received the most finished polish ; but where reason is decisive, experience often contradicts. The longer men live, their thoughts on Happiness become more incorrect ; and instead of calling it an uncertainty, as in former days was done, we give up the pursuit altogether, and deem it an absolute chimera. Happiness, however, is no such chimera ; it is not the fanciful production of a heated imagination ; nor does our love of it flow merely from the animated and unnatural picture of it in writings. We are born with desires after it, and we are endued with faculties meet for the pursuit of it, could we only be prevailed upon to exert them in a proper manner.

As men have in general reckoned it an *ignis fatuus*, a something that every body talks of and no body ever saw, which every body wishes to have and no one ever possesses, it is not to be wondered at that we have no definition of Happiness ; for ‘ definition ’ implies knowledge of the properties of the object to be defined. Pleasure has been mistaken for it ; and it is by their eagerness in seeking after sensual bliss, that men so often lose sight of Happiness. I would define Happiness to be, ‘ a freedom from the reflections of a guilty mind.’ This excludes every enjoyment on which we cannot look back with satisfaction, and every gratification that injures strength of body or mind. This happiness converts the wilderness of life into a pleasant country, through which we are travelling

towards our native home, and in which, as we are to remain but for a short time, every little difficulty appears trifling, and every calamity as a kindly intimation that we loiter on the journey, and must no longer delay our arrival at that country which we have been taught to look to. It is this happiness that can lessen the innumerable miseries 'flesh is heir to,' and cheer us in the moment of retirement by making us company for ourselves. In the company of others our senses may be seduced by pleasure; but it is only by the test of solitude that we can know whether that pleasure was not as a bitter poison which was soon to be fatal.

The truly happy may sometimes have cause of sorrow; for what man is he who has never known a moment of affliction, and what situation can there be unconnected with many a pang? There are untoward accidents tied to the lot of human nature. These to the virtuous are 'misfortunes;' to the vicious they are 'miseries.' To me it appears, that in our youth we fix the standard of happiness on the external circumstances of our lot, as friendship and social connexion: this mistake leads us into errors whose consequences we do not foresee, and whose effects the longest life may not be able to wipe away. We thus become careless of securing the only source of happiness—the recollection of a well-spent life. The neglect of this betrays us into folly, and folly, by almost imperceptible gradations, leads us into vice; and if ever afterwards we acquire more exalted notions of the dignity of our nature and the importance of rectitude, what are we awakened to, but to regret that we have sulked the one, and erred from the paths of the other?—How agreeable such reflections are at an advanced period of life, he best can tell who has just emerged from the darkness of delusory pleasure, and wonders where his senses have been hurled, and why his reason was drawn into the fatal slumbers of deceit. Does it follow, then, that those are to be deemed happy whom we find sinking under the load of grief for some unlooked-for misfortune, and whose piety and prudence we have no reason to call in question?—Certainly. The best and most strenuous advocate for purity can claim no exemption from the common woes that attend a feeling and thinking mind. If the good are deprived of the invaluable blessings of health, and if the wise by their wisdom cannot bespeak a perpetuity of happiness, it is not because they are unworthy of such possession. Did their enjoyments suffer no interruption, they would be afterwards with difficulty weaned from perishable objects, and others might place the rewards of virtue in what was thus 'obviously' its portion. An exact attention to temperance will not always ensure health, and the indulgence of the emotions of an amiable and sympathetic soul may not always be attended with advantages to the beneficent; but we are nevertheless to cultivate such a mind with tender care, and to bear up its strength against the opposition of ingratitude. There is a state, whereof our knowledge is as yet but imperfect, where the weaknesses of our nature, which are now dangerous from the depravity of mankind, may be exercised freely, and will take the name of exalted virtues.

For the American Magazine.

Thoughts on Farming, on Scientific Agriculture, and on Agricultural Societies.

THERE are, probably, few men to be found, who are not aware that the art of Farming, or the business of common agriculture, is still in a state of such imperfection as to be susceptible of great improvement. The Farmer has an art to learn, by no means so easy as many seem to suppose; and it is not, therefore, to be imagined, that either the art itself should be perfect, or every Farmer perfectly instructed in his art. Nothing is more common than to hear people who know nothing of this kind of business, exclaim against the ignorance and folly of those who conduct it, and wonder that a Farmer should know so little of his business! The fact is, that, like every other kind of business, the highest perfection of this art is possessed but by a very few. But still, there is in practical Farming, in every country, a far greater degree of perfection than the theoretic agriculturalist is disposed to admit. We may see evidences of this in almost every quarter, if we are disposed to examine, and to be guided, in forming an opinion, by reason and fact. It is very true that theoretic farming, or the agriculture proposed by theorists in science, does not often meet the eye as we traverse the United States. Gentlemen Farmers, who are supposed capable of combining what is most valuable in agricultural science, with the mere manual or habitual management of the farm, as practised among the common Farmers, are yet but sparsely found in our country. There are more, however, than formerly; and it is to be hoped that the charms of rural life, and the increasing wealth of our citizens, may soon make this occupation as fashionable and as fascinating as it really deserves to be. No mere amusement, can compare with this, if mere amusement be the object; and I know of none which may, with the same certainty, be reckoned accessible to all who possess wealth, nor so certain of engaging attention for a period of long duration. There is, however, very little chance that the Gentleman Farmer should make money by this employment. He who would make money by Farming, must be not only a Farmer himself, but a laborer: Whose appetite, sharpened by the sweat of his brow, craves not the nicer delicacies of food, but leaves them for those who labor not, while the Farmer pockets the sums for which they are sold. It is principally by living like a Farmer, that he is enabled to increase in riches. There is, moreover no chance of making money by working a farm with only a Book for a guide. Real Farmers know this, and smile at the conceits of the theorist whose knowledge is drawn only from science, often splendid in fame and rich in fancy, but poor in practise. The pocket tells this tale, sooner or later; and he who was lately dictating in all the pride of conceit to every laborious, practical Farmer, *going on in the old way*, is at last thankful for the instruction of experience, and for that knowledge he so lately spurned. The fact is that by having been the victim of theory and Books, he has learnt what every man

should know ;—that theory and science are often at variance with truth, and that to make science even useful to itself, it must be indebted more to the arts, than the arts are to science. Men of literature and science are rarely practical men ;—but these are the men that write Books, while the labor of actual business in the arts, by occupying the whole attention, confines practical knowledge principally to those who use it. It is well, therefore, that these men commonly know better than to abandon that which they know, for that which they may have read, though this propensity may occasionally retard the progress of real improvement. We all have seen that it does so ; but while tradition and experience are slow in adopting reform, they are sure to lose nothing of what they have learnt in their own way. These are the reasons why the common Farmer knows more of his business than the theorist who has learnt only from Books ; and they account for the ready imputation of a charge of ignorance, urged by those who know nothing by experience.

Where, in the walks of science, shall we find a man who can impart so much of what he knows that would be useful to a good Farmer, as he may learn from this same Farmer that would be useful to science ? And this too when the Farmer is perfectly illiterate, and wholly untaught concerning the great things which science boasts. It must be noticed that I am speaking of some observing, thinking man, who is experienced in his art, a good Farmer, but no better than is to be found in every farming district of our country. These remarks are not intended to disparage science or learning. Much, very much may be acquired in this way, which might be made far more useful as well to the Farmer, as to every other description of artists, if the happy mean could be devised of combining whatever is most valuable in the knowledge of science and art. Scientific Farming, will only succeed with the Gentleman Farmer, who has money to spare for experiments, and Books, and theories, founded on other authorities than experience ;—but it may afford him an interesting employment, full of amusement and incident. And should men of wealth turn their attention this way, the time may not be remote when one of the most useful occupations may be made the most agreeable and fashionable, and sufficiently profitable to compensate for all its cares and duties. Besides wishing to see the actual Farmer and freeholder rise in influence superior to that of any other description of men in America, I am also anxious to see the description of Gentlemen Farmers become far more numerous. I wish even to see the influence of the Yeomanry, (by which I mean the whole body of Farmers,) combined to produce a separate interest ; and I especially am anxious to see this interest duly represented in all selections of delegates and Representatives. I would be glad to see every Yeoman tenacious of the right of his own interest, in all selections for office : for this I deem important toward providing a due distribution of checks and balances, as sureties for the duration of public liberty. In all countries and in all ages, the seeds of freedom are especially begotten and cherished in the minds of those who cultivate the soil.

But I pass to the last object proposed, in order to show that Agricultural Societies, if they would be useful to agriculture, must be principally under the guidance of practical men, actual Farmers. It is a great error to suppose that men of mere science can instruct Farmers in the arts of agriculture; or rather to suppose that they can impart so much to this description of men, applicable to their pursuits, as they can learn from them. If real Farmers, men of sense, observation, and experience, would unite in forming an institution in which a full and free interchange of opinion, experience and fact should be repositied, much good might be done. In such an institution, the man of science who was about to enter on Gentleman Farming, might make his own acquisitions serviceable, while he was learning that the theory of theoretic farming is too commonly founded only on learned ignorance. He would be able to learn this in time, probably, to save an estate, and which he would otherwise squander in pursuit of the splendid errors of book-farming. There are, however, many strange opinions among us concerning what I may denominate the infallibility of certain plans of agriculture. Men are to be found, still, so learnedly ignorant, as to suppose that whatever is established as good farming in one country, or on one kind of land, must be so in all, and on every kind of soil. I lately heard a gentleman of considerable distinction, speaking of the efforts of certain men and associations in this country to introduce improvements in field farming, very earnestly assert that this was all nonsense:—for that in England, the whole science of agriculture was reduced to a perfect system, and that we had nothing to do but to get a set of English Books, and follow the English plan exactly! ‘These gentlemen are taking upon themselves a work of supererogation,’ said he, ‘which marks their folly and ignorance.’ What consummate folly and ignorance is this! And yet this man, who perhaps may have owned some gardens, or, may-be, farms in England, is looked up to as a source from which certain scientific agriculturalists expect to draw information in agriculture, in order to enrich our Farmers! There is not a Farmer, or a Farmer’s boy, or a Farmer’s servant, in America, who has been thoroughly bred to farming, that could not instruct this man in relation to his business. And had any one of these heard him announce as a late discovery, that the age of a tree might be known by the concentric rings of the wood, he would have laughed in his face! A pompous essay on a late discovery concerning the natural history of the bot-fly, told less than is known to every Negro servant who is faithful to his master and his master’s horses. Yet such are too commonly the trifling things on which scientific agriculturalists, and the learned Members of Agricultural Societies are employed. It is therefore no wonder if the Farmer is unenlightened by them; or that they should suppose the Farmers are of all others the most ignorant of their own business! Neither the art, nor the science of agriculture, can ever be learnt in a closet, or college—nor can they from all the Books which these may produce. And in urging these opinions, I only have in view to propose that science and art should learn to take instruction from each other. Learning may do much

toward aiding labor, and labor much toward aiding learning, whenever they unite in one object, and meet on terms of perfect equality.

It is but bare justice to observe here, that whatever might be the usefulness of Agricultural Associations, composed principally or wholly of actual Farmers, it is hardly to be expected that many such associations would be formed without the exertions of others. Men fond of science, attached to theory, are more likely to take a successful lead in these objects; but I should rejoice to learn that the best informed among the experienced Farmers were entering with zeal into the same object, till every County or considerable district should have its Agricultural Society. Perhaps it might be well for the People of every State in the American Union, to consider the propriety of forming at least one such Association. The experiment might readily be tried, and they might be multiplied, as they undoubtedly would be, in proportion as they were found useful. The example of the world is before us, and it is generally believed that the perfection of British agriculture is greatly indebted to Agricultural Societies. The Berkshire Agricultural Society, in the State of Massachusetts, has done great honor to the intelligence and zeal of its patriotic founders, and to that liberal policy which enlightened agriculturalists know well to appreciate. I shall be glad to learn that this institution is ever prosperous. Nothing but distance and extreme old age, could reconcile me to an absence from its annual Fairs. Still I am not without my hopes that I may yet live to see a similar institution in my native State.

The American Magazine, was well devoted to preserve a full record of the last Annual Fair, and I offer these hasty remarks for the same work, if thought deserving of a place.

January, 1816.

VIRGINIANA.

INLAND CARRIAGE.

Pittsburg.—In the course of conversation with an intelligent Merchant who resides in Philadelphia but left Pittsburg about two weeks since, he stated that upon diligent inquiry and from the best sources of information, he had ascertained that between the 1st of April and the 1st of December 1815, a period of eight months, the sum of *three hundred and fifty-six thousand* dollars had been paid for the carriage of goods unladen out of waggons in the town of Pittsburg. Supposing the sum paid for carriage to be equal to 10 per cent. of the cost of the goods, it follows that in eight months there has been deposited in Pittsburg, goods to the amount of THREE MILLIONS FIVE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS; of which probably seven eighths were imported from foreign countries.—*Demo. Press.* 1815.

Ancient Family.—There is much sound, palpable argument in the speech of a country lad, to an idler, who boasted of his ancient family—"So much the worse for you," said the peasant;—"the older the seed, the worse the crop."

he had every luxury that bounteous Nature could bestow, he had every ornament that wealth could procure, he was flattered, he had friends, every one was anxious to contribute to his comfort and happiness; where are all these in his adversity? Alas! he knows them not. His flatterers despise him, his friends forsake him, his enemies assault him. Despised, and in want, he is thrown upon the world, and must live an obscure and lonely life. If any condition of mankind is miserable, it is this state, into which many fall by their own folly and extravagance.

The extreme of prodigality and avarice ought therefore to be strenuously avoided. Beyond what contributes to our own comfort ought to be appropriated to the assistance of those around us. For this, the misfortunes and casualties of human life afford ample scope. In living under the impression that we are administering relief to our fellow creatures, what a happy state is independence? Here indeed riches are valuable, since we have the satisfaction of contemplating, that by assisting others we are alleviating some hardship or some care. Beneficence has not the glare of pomp and extravagance neither has it their dangers. The latter afford, if any, but a temporary pleasure, fleeting and uncertain; the former, the most permanent and substantial pleasure of which human life is capable.

K.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

I agree with you that every thing in relation to a correct development of the nature of what is called The Electric Fluid, is of great importance to legitimate science and physical knowledge. The singular case of electrical action, which I had the pleasure to relate to you last winter, has occupied a good deal of my thoughts; and as it occurred so long ago, I have been endeavoring to gain access to as many of the persons as I could, who were present with me, and who observed it all with the closest and most eager attention. You will recollect I told you I was then a Boy of 15 or 16 years of age, and that the whole party, consisting of about 20 persons, some of whom were men of 45 years or more, had a full and deliberate view of this singular phenomenon. On making enquiry, since I saw you, I find that several, and perhaps all of those persons are now living. Those of them, with whom I have lately conversed, agree with me in the following statement, even to the most minute circumstance. We were at work in a harvest-field, distant from the owner's house near three quarters of a mile, on a ridge of land considerably elevated; and in going eastward to the house, we had to cross a thick swamp of pine, hemlock and cedar timber. The mountains are very high on the E. and W. of this vale, which has long been noted as subject to tremendous hurricanes and thunder-gusts, being one of the western vales of the ranges of the green mountains. The soil of this valley, and that of the hills, abounds with iron ore: and the inhabitants had long been impressed with a belief that this abundance of iron attracted an unusual quantity of lightning into the

valley, which was rarely seen to strike the mountains on either side.

The gathering of a thick and threatening cloud, indicating a dreadful storm, induced the workmen in the field to start for the house a little before noon. On emerging from the swamp, we entered pasture fields, gently rising, which reached to the house, near the eastern extremity of the valley, here about 2 miles wide. The storm came rapidly on, and as we were advancing through a flock of sheep, they all started with affright, and ran from the cloud. Our attention was now arrested by a loud hissing noise in the air, and on turning to look we discovered the cause of it. From the dreadful cloud which was at a great height over us, we saw descending a column, black, and exactly like the rest of the cloud, of the apparent diameter of 'a hog's head.' It progressed rapidly downward, without any inclination, but not so fast but that the eye could deliberately accompany its descent, which was attended with a very loud hissing sort of a noise, approaching to that of a dismal howl. The sheep and some of our party continued to run before it; but the most of us stood petrified with fear and amazement. The descent was perfectly regular, so far as we could perceive, and the lower extremity was rounded 'as if it were a large stone descending in a blanket.' Such were our remarks at the time, and the conclusions in which we now agree. Several seconds must have been taken up in the time of the descent, after we first observed the column in its course. The ground on which we stood was considerably elevated above the swamp through which we had just passed, toward which the column was descending, and the field was perfectly clear from trees or bushes. While we watched, the lower extremity reached the top of a tall, dry hemlock tree, and we were shocked with a report of thunder which seemed the loudest we had ever heard—at the same instant, a stream of the most vivid lightning extended from the tree to the cloud high in the air:—and continued visible while we had time to count 20 or 25. We were all of us confident that the fire only appeared at the instant of contact, but on looking upward, it was visible through the whole line. From that moment, nothing of the black vapor or cloud was to be seen along the lower part of this line; but a broken cloud, less black, and seemingly less dense than the great field above, hung hovering about the place of the head of the column, as it continued to do for some time. The tree was stript of its bark, and the rotten sap-wood underneath, and stood like a white mast in the forest. A cloud of smoke ascended from the rotten wood which had been set on fire, but which was soon extinguished by a dash of very great drops of rain. We were about a quarter of a mile from this tree, and when we turned to go home we found the sheep, and the cattle and horses in the field, to the number of at least one hundred, all still and looking at that great phenomenon that had arrested all our attention. The rain made us hasten our steps to the house; and by about 2 o'clock the storm was over, when we all returned to the field, by the foot of the tall white hemlock that we had seen so marvellously stript of its covering, with which the air had been thickened, for many rods all round the tree. The trunk was not shivered at all, but many of

the green saplings around it, some of which were very tall, I should say near 100 feet, were literally torn in shivers, quite to the roots. In many places, the lightning had traced deep trenches along the course of these roots, for many yards in length, while the roots of the hemlock were only rent a little, in one place : The main charge seemed to have left that tree at some feet from the ground. I will only add, that, for many years, these trenches of which I spoke, continued, deep and easily traced for many rods ; and that having given you a bare statement of facts, I have no conjectures to offer on the extraordinary occurrence that I have been relating. Some of your Philosophical Correspondents, it is to be hoped, will give to this subject proper attention

I remarked, just now, that the people here have a belief that the iron in this valley attracts frequent and great charges of the electric fluid from passing clouds. This belief is founded on circumstances, some of which appear to me so extraordinary, as to warrant relation ; the more particularly, as, so far as I know, they present some novel facts in the history of the effects of lightning. About the year 1790, during one of those thunder-gusts which are frequent and tremendous here, the lightning descended a large tree at the northern extremity of this valley, near where some workmen were employed burning charcoal for a furnace just at hand. This charge was very great, and it spent itself in tracing the roots in the ground, like the one before mentioned, and which is not, indeed, a rare occurrence here. These trenches were, in many instances, several rods in extent, and so deep in some places that a man walking upright was more than half buried in them. Huge rocks, weighing several tons, were thrown out of their beds. The occurrence attracted a good deal of notice, and that at a time when men were divided in opinion about the ascending or returning stroke of lightning. After some weeks had elapsed, I went, with many others, to view this ground, and to examine what many called conclusive evidence of a returning stroke. The ground, near the furnace in this town, was very rocky, and the accounts I had received were by no means exaggerated, concerning the effect of the lightning. It exceeded any thing I had ever, or have since seen, of the power of lightning, exerted in this way. The tree on which the main charge had descended, was torn all to pieces ; and the deepest trench, following the course of the roots, was near, as far as I can now remember, 30 feet in length. Here it seemed to have ascended another large tree, which was rent from the heart, and a slab torn off, on one side, about 20 feet in length, tapering upward. That the lightning which had done this, came along the root from the other tree, was clearly shown by the position of the stones and rocks which had been thrown from their beds in the ground ; many of the largest of which were advanced only a few inches, and all in that direction. There could be no doubt in this case. The charge had certainly been exerting its force, under ground, on a main root of that tree which had been its prime conductor, when it came in contact with a large root of another tree ; and its force not being yet spent, it ascended the root, and finally the tree, till the charge

was exhausted. Such, & most plainly, this case appeared to me. The question which it presented to my mind, was, whether this afforded any additional evidence of what is called the theory of the double current? This, then, is a question which I propose to submit to your readers, while I remain, your friend,

LAERTES.

Tinmouth, Vt. 1816.

Cure for an obstinate Cold which affects the Lungs.

Take Elecampane, Comfrey and Horehound, put them in a new earthen vessel, which must be nearly filled with water; then set it over a slow fire, until half the water is boiled away, and then strain it through a coarse linen rag. To one pint of this liquid, add two large table spoons full of honey, half a roll of liquorice, and as much loaf sugar as will make a good syrup, and then stew it again until the liquorice is dissolved, after which add the juice of two lemons, put it in a bottle and cork it tight until you wish to use it. A table spoonful should be taken several times through the day, particularly when the cough is bad and at going to bed. After taking the syrup, take a small piece of saltpetre, about the size of a pea, but not oftener than once a day and let it dissolve in your mouth.

The proportion should be—the Comfrey and Horehound in equal quantities, and the Elecampane about one third as much as either of the others.

GOVERNORS OF THE SEVERAL STATES.

JANUARY, 1816.

		<i>Mode of Election.</i>
New-Hampshire,	<i>John T. Gilman,</i>	1 year, <i>people.</i>
Massachusetts,	<i>Caleb Strong,</i>	do.
Rhode-Island,	<i>William Jones,</i>	do.
Connecticut,	<i>John C. Smith,</i>	do.
Vermont,	<i>Jonas Galusha,</i>	do.
New-York,	<i>Danl. D. Tompkins,</i>	5 years, <i>people.</i>
New-Jersey,	<i>Mahlon Dickerson,</i>	1 year, <i>Legis.</i>
Pennsylvania,	<i>Simon Snyder,</i>	3 years, <i>people.</i>
Delaware,	<i>Daniel Rodney,</i>	do.
Maryland,	<i>Charles Ridgley,</i>	1 year, <i>Legis.</i>
Virginia,	<i>Wilson C. Nicholas,</i>	do.
North-Carolina,	<i>William Miller,</i>	do.
South-Carolina,	<i>David R. Williams,</i>	2 years, <i>Legis.</i>
Georgia,	<i>David B. Mitchell,</i>	do.
Kentucky,	<i>Isaac Shelby,</i>	4 years <i>people.</i>
Tennessee,	<i>Joseph Mc Minn,</i>	2 years, <i>people.</i>
Ohio,	<i>Tho. Worthington,</i>	do.
Louisiana,	<i>W. C. C. Claiborne,</i>	do.

* * Names in *italics* are federal.—*Bost. Pat.*

Upon a moderate estimate, it is calculated that every Soldier sent to America during the late war, cost the British government upwards of 100*l.* extra expense. This statement is made on the authority of an Officer of the British Commissariat.

From the Albany Argus, Dec. 1815.

NEWSPAPERS IN NEW-YORK.

We publish the following list of the Newspapers published in this state as a matter of usefulness and curiosity.

<i>Titles.</i>	<i>Places where published.</i>	<i>County.</i>
*Long-Island Star,	Brooklyn,	Kings.
†New-York Gazette,§	New-York,	New-York.
‡Mercantile Advertiser,§	do.	do.
†Commercial Advertiser,§	do.	do.
‡Evening Post,§	do.	do.
*Columbian,§	do.	do.
*National Advocate,§	do.	do.
†Courier,§	do.	do.
*Shamrock,	do.	do.
*Patriot,	do.	do.
*Westchester Gazette,	Peekskill,	Westchester.
*Political Index,	Newburgh,	Orange.
*Orange County Gazette,	Goshen,	do.
†Goshen Patriot,	do.	do.
*Independent Republican,	Montgomery,	do.
†Ulster Gazette,	Kingston,	Ulster.
*Ulster Plebeian,	do.	do.
†Poughkeepsie Journal,	Poughkeepsie;	Duchess.
*Republican Herald,	do.	do.
*Duchess Observer,	do.	do.
*Catskill Recorder,	Catskill,	Greene.
†Washingtonian,	do.	do.
*Bee,	Hudson,	Columbia.
†Northern Whig,	do.	do.
‡Albany Gazette,	Albany,	Albany.
*Albany Register,	do.	do.
*Albany Argus,	do.	do.
†Albany Daily Advertiser,§	do.	do.
†Lansingburgh Gazette,	Lansingburgh,	Rensselaer.
‡Northern Budget,	Troy,	do.
*Farmers' Register,	do.	do.
†Troy Post,	do.	do.
†Northern Post,	Salem,	Washington.
*Washington Register,	do.	do.
*Adviser,	Glen's Falls,	Warren.
*Plattsburgh Republican,	Plattsburgh,	Clinton.
†Plattsburgh Herald,	do.	do.
*Reveille,	Elizabethtown,	Essex.
†Waterford Gazette,	Waterford,	Saratoga.
*Saratoga Journal,	Ballston Spa,	do.
†American,	do.	do.
*Saratoga Courier,	do.	do.
*Cabinet,	Schenectady,	Schenectady.

†Schoharie Gazette,	Schoharie,	Schoharie.
†Montgomery Republican,	Johnstown,	Montgomery.
*Montgomery Monitor,	do.	do.
†Herkimer American,	Herkimer,	Herkimer.
*Columbian Gazette,	Utica,	Oneida.
†Utica Patriot,	do.	do.
†Patrol,	do.	do.
*American Advocate,	Watertown,	Jefferson.
*Otsego Herald,	Cooperstown,	Otsego.
†Otsego Federalist,	do.	do.
*Republican Watch-Tower,	do.	do.
*Volunteer,	Norwich,	Chenango.
†Oxford Gazette,	Oxford,	do.
†Phoenix,	Binghamton,	Broome.
*Owego Gazette,	Owego Village,	Tioga.
*Telegraph,	Elmira,	do.
*Pilot,	Cazenovia,	Madison.
†Madison County Herald,	Peterborough,	do.
*Cayuga Patriot,	Aurelius,	Cayuga.
†Western Federalist,	do.	do.
†Manlius Times,	Manlius,	Onondaga.
*Whig, ¶	do.	do.
†Onondaga Register,	Onondaga,	do.
*Seneca Patriot,	Ovid,	Seneca.
*Republican,	Ithica,	do.
*Cortlandt Republican,	Cortlandt-Village,	Cortlandt.
†Cortlandt Repository,	Homer,	do.
†Geneva Gazette,	Geneva,	Ontario.
*——— ¶	do.	do.
*Messenger,	Canandaigua,	do.
†Repository,	do.	do.
*Batavia Advocate,	Batavia,	Genesee.
†Buffalo Gazette,	Buffalo,	Niagara.
*Niagara Journal,	do.	do.

**Republican.* †*Federal.* ‡*Neutral.* §*Daily.* ||*Semi-weekly.* ¶*About to be commenced.*

RECAPITULATION.

Republican,	42	8 Daily, is	48 per week.
Federal,	33	3 Semi-weekly	6
Neutral,	2	66 Weekly,	66
Total,	77	Tot. per week,	120

If the average number of papers from each press be estimated at 700 at each publication, it gives an aggregate of 84,000 per week, or of 4,368,000 annually. The cost of the paper, at a moderate calculation, exceeds 40,000 dollars. There are also published in the state, several literary and scientific periodical works, and four country Newspapers issued from daily offices, which are not included in this estimate.

THE
AMERICAN MAGAZINE,
A MONTHLY MISCELLANY,

CONDUCTED BY

HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD, A. M. F. A. A.

Author of a Geography of the United States, a Gazetteer of the State of New-York, &c.:—a Member of the New-York Historical Society, and one of the Counsellors of the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts:—a Member of the American Antiquarian Society, and of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, Massachusetts.

No. 11.

APRIL, 1816.

VOL. I.

LANCASTER-SCHOOLS.

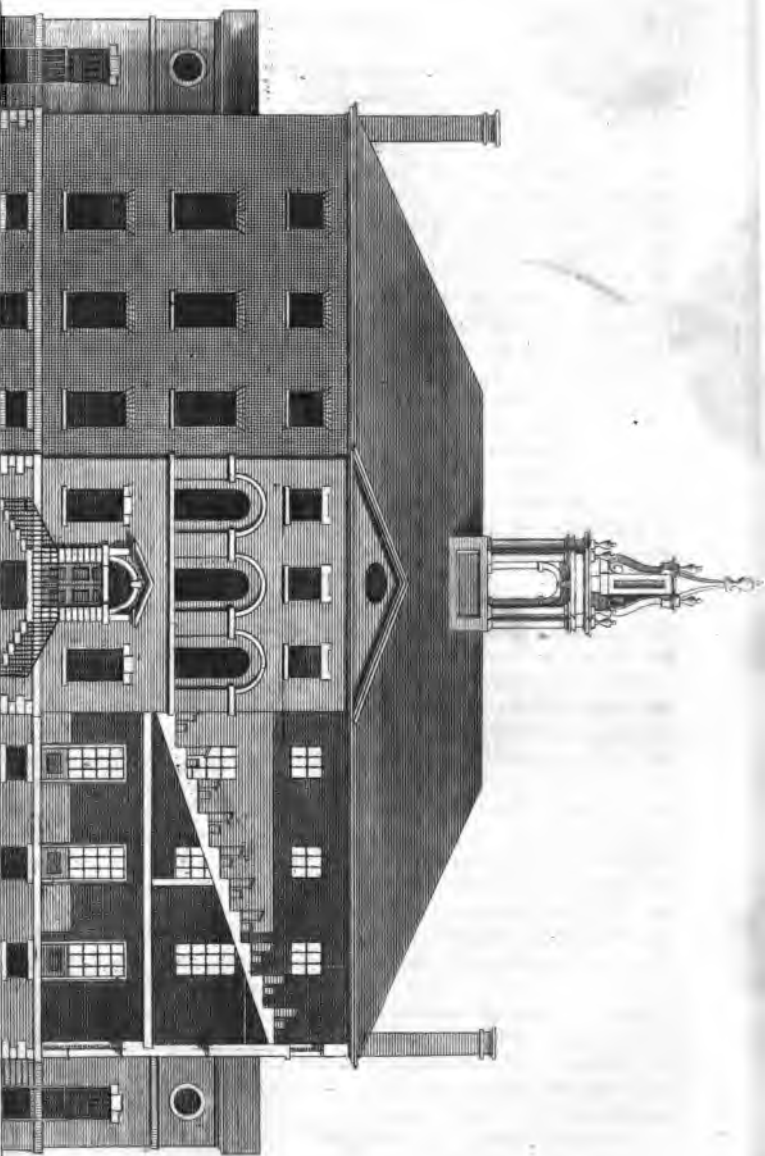
THE Annual Report of the British and Foreign School Society, or Royal Lancastrian Institution of England, for 1815, has lately come to our hands. It is an interesting Document, and we regret that our limits do not permit a republication of it. It presents a kind of historical view of this System of Instruction, and a mass of information that would no doubt, be highly acceptable to our Readers. Great efforts have been made, in Great-Britain, to extend the benefits of this system throughout all quarters of the globe. In France, Flanders, Holland, Germany and Russia, besides many other countries, the plan is already in operation:—and to this enumeration we may add that, in the East Indies, and at least in one place in Africa, there are now Schools on this plan. In the United States of America, there are many in operation, and others founded, or about to commence their operations in various and remote parts. In a few years, it may be confidently believed they will be established in all our populous Towns, from one extremity to the other of this Union. In Europe, many of the most distinguished men of the age, are devoting great attention to this method of instruction, and to the founding of Schools of this plan, as well by their writings and publications, as by the whole influence of their example. The name of Carnot, of France, presents to our recollections in America, the recent troubles of Europe—and we hardly know if this Statesman should be admired or execrated. Whatever may be the diversity of opinion, as respects political events, and the agency of this man in producing them, it is yet certain that he inherits, from nature, a sovereignty and dignity of mind that ennobles the human character. In 1815, after Bonaparte returned from Elba, Carnot, then Minister of the Interior, made a learned and elaborate Report, on the subject of Education, highly in praise of the Lancastrian System. He proposed that a National School, on this plan, should be established at Paris, to serve as a model for France, and for the instruction of Teachers, who should, in time, extend the system to all parts of that Empire. This proposition was adopted by Bonaparte, and a Decree issued accordingly. Far from us be the intention to interfere in the concerns of other nations, or to become an advocate for the one or the other of the late Sovereigns of that ill-fated Empire. We wish, however, that France could long enjoy the benefits of such a system as was decreed to her; for according to the above Report there are millions of children in France totally destitute of education, and of the means of procuring it. In the pre-
amble to this Report, we notice the following well-merited compliment to America, for the care bestowed on the subject of education. “When the Americans of the United States,” says he, “determine the situation of a city, or even of a hamlet, their first care is, along with the instruments of agriculture, to send a teacher immediately to the spot. These men of sense—these pupils of Franklin and Washington, being very sensible that to cultivate the mind, is as closely connected with the real necessities of man, as to clear the land, to roof houses, or to obtain clothing.”—CARNOT.

VOL. I.

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THE ALBANY LANCASTER-SCHOOL,
With a View of the SCHOOL-HOUSE, now erecting, drawn by
 MR. PHILIP HOOKER, *Architect.*

THE Albany Lancaster-School, has been in operation about five years. It has been taught, hitherto, in a room of 40 feet by 28, yet so fitted up, as to receive 200 scholars;—and it has never had less than that number. Since its commencement, 1100 have enjoyed the benefits of the Institution. Here have been taught *Spelling, Reading, Writing, Ciphering, Geography, English Grammar, Composition and Elocution*, in the style of the best Academies of Europe. When the Teacher, Mr. W. A. TWEED DALE, arrived in this country, he was introduced to the Hon. De Witt Clinton, who, having become acquainted with his character and abilities, wrote to Gen. S. Van Rensselaer: in consequence of which he was invited to Albany by the Corporation of this city, and engaged by them for six months. This led to the formation and incorporation of the Lancaster-School-Society; with a permanent appropriation of that proportion of the Common School-fund, which belongs to the City of Albany. The Corporation of the City also, appropriated \$ 500 annually, beside a donation of 800 to defray the expense of fitting up the School-Room, &c.; resolving at the same time, to build a suitable School-House. And when we consider the large numbers that have been taught on this plan, at a comparatively small expense, and also the tendency of the system to form virtuous citizens, by training up the youth in habits of order and method; by habituating them to the discharge of relative and social duties; and in short, by introducing them into the World in miniature, and instructing them in the business of REAL LIFE; who can attempt to calculate the importance of this Institution to our City. We have been peculiarly fortunate in procuring a Teacher, from the original School of Mr. Lancaster, in England. To his information, obtained in Mr. Lancaster's School, he has added important improvements, both of his own, and the invention of others. These are too numerous to be mentioned in this place. Those of the interior structure of the school-room, may be easily appreciated, and are well deserving of the attention of building committees. The elevation of the desks, places every scholar in the most distinct and conspicuous point of view for the Teacher; while his Desk, placed so as to present nearly an equal space in front, and on each hand, affords the greatest facility in his communication with the whole school. The entrance for the boys, being at one end of the building, and that for the girls, at the opposite end, two schools, entirely distinct and separate may be taught in the same room. The apartments under the desks, will be of the greatest utility for this purpose, both before and between the hours of instruction. In these, those who come from a distance, may remain and recreate themselves, without injuring the furniture of the School-room; and neither sex will be seen or heard by the other. During School hours, these rooms may be used for recitation, and a portion of each as a ward-robe.

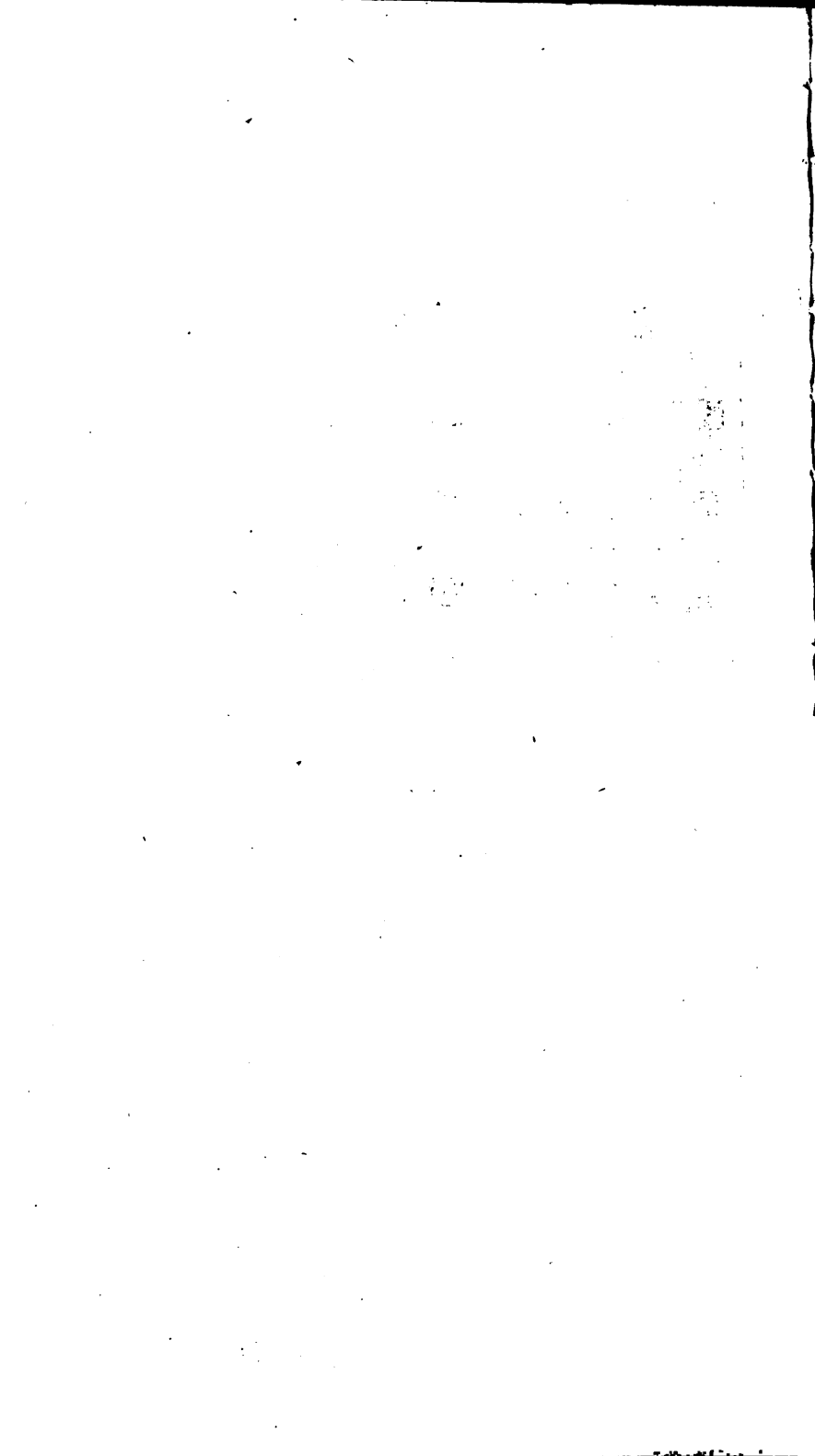


P. H. H. & Co. N.Y.

LANCASTER-SCHOOL-HOUSE in the City of ALBANY.

(Founded in 1815.)

W. H. & H. H. & Co. N.Y.



We shall only mention one improvement in the mode of teaching: this is Silent Dictation. Instead of having the words spelled aloud to each class, to be written on slate; they are pointed out by a Monitor, on a printed alphabet, in *written* letters. This is done without interrupting any classes that may have been called out to read, or cipher aloud, and without being interrupted by them. These may profitably join in concert, however, when the words that have been written on slate are spelled aloud. Thus all the school may spell the same word, at the same time: This is done after the word has been pronounced, syllabically, without repeating the syllables, but merely by calling the letters distinctly, and pausing a little between the syllables;—a method at once pleasing and instructive. Mr. Dale, the Teacher of this School, is probably as well qualified for his Task as any other, in any similar school in America; and though his modesty may take the alarm, we deem it an act of justice thus to declare his merits. An examination of his school, has always afforded us high gratification and ample assurance for these remarks, which we have made without his knowledge, and solely for the benefit of those who may be interested in gaining correct and useful information concerning the details of the Lancastrian System of Education.

The Lancaster School House, now erecting in the city of Albany, is situated on the west side of Eagle Street, a little south of the Capitol. It is a neat, plain brick Edifice, 100 feet in length, and fifty feet in width, with a small wing at each end for stair cases.

The first floor will contain a vestibule, hall, and stair case, and a room for the Trustees; in the centre and on one side, a room of 47 by 35 feet, for public meetings—and on the other, convenient apartments for the Teacher's residence.

The second floor is the school room, 97 feet in length, 47 feet in width, and 21 feet in height. It includes the two upper tier of windows. The Teacher's desk is placed in the centre, against the front wall, and elevated about 2 feet from the floor. The desks and seats for the scholars are ranged on each side, parallel with the end walls;—each rising one foot above the other, as in a church gallery: each stage 3 1-2 feet, gives room for a desk, seat, and narrow aisle between the seat and the next desk.

Opposite the Teacher's desk, against the rear wall, a stage is elevated on pillars, with steps to ascend to the same, which is also fitted up with desks and seats, for such scholars as the Teacher shall think proper to honor with a seat there, as a reward for their assiduity, and to excite emulation. There are rooms of 47 by 17 feet, at each end, under the aforesaid gallery, besides four lumber rooms under the front part of the gallery.

The annexed plate is a Geometrical Elevation of the front, drawn to a scale of 20 feet to an inch. In this representation the front wall, to the right, from the water-table to the cornice, is supposed to be removed, in order to exhibit a view of the interior structure, with the elevation of the desks, seats, &c. in the School Room.

More minute details, desirable in this case, are precluded by

want of room ; and we close by recommending the plan, and entire construction of this building, so honorable to the zeal, intelligence, and enterprize of the Inhabitants, and the Corporation of this City, to the attention of building committees and the trustees of Lancaster-Schools. For the benefit of the public, we could wish that Mr. Dale were more extensively known, among the friends of the Lancasterian System in America. Of his qualifications and abilities as a Teacher, we have ample evidence, in the success of his efforts in this city. He was frequently selected by Lancaster himself, to superintend the first organization of Schools on this plan, in various parts of Great-Britain ;—and though we should esteem him the less, we could almost wish he had more of that personal vanity which enables men of inferior qualifications to attract the more notice, or less of that modesty and amiableness that prompts others to retire from it. In making these remarks, designed for the information of those more immediately interested in subjects of this kind,—and at a time when they necessarily engage a large share of general inquiry and attention, we are actuated alike by sentiments of personal esteem, and a due regard to the interest of the public.

ED.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

*Agricola, on Domestic Policy, and the means for improving the
Resources of the United States.*

AT a time when the interests of American Commerce and Manufactures are laboring under great difficulties, and the public attention is just beginning to look seriously around for remedies ;—when, more than ever before, since your remembrance, every circumstance conspires to heighten the importance of Inquiries, in relation to the prospective policy of America, I am about to offer you a few suggestions. Not that I fancy myself adequate to a due consideration of the subjects that naturally present themselves to my view—for I really lay no claim to pretensions such as should characterize the Statesman, or the Legislator. The times earnestly call for the aid of all men who love their country, and who would seek its prosperity. It is a time of great individual perplexity and embarrassment :—of very general consternation. Not that the Republic is threatened with dangers from abroad : The storms of war have passed over us, and the world reposes in peace. There is pestilence in war :—the whole globe attests this fact. An atmosphere, if I may so say, generated by a state of war, composed of its elements, carries, more or less, this pestilence into remote periods. But lately, and the world was in arms :—at peace now, we are yet inhaling the poison of causes as universal as are the effects that follow : with this difference, that we *feel* the effects, and only saw, more or less remotely, or heard of, the causes. A moral contagion hath swept this globe : can we expect to escape its consequences ?

The people of all countries had embraced the habits and pursuits of a state of general warfare :—happily, in the dispensations of Divine Providence, we are called upon to exchange them for those of peace. Great changes are never brought about but by more or less of individual, and even national suffering : There is even a storm of rest and peace, as well as of commotion and war. The elements of society, have not been less affected than have the physical elements. If we have been too ready to embrace the elements of war ; to seek its honors, or its *sinews* ;—too eager to profit by the miseries of our fellow-creatures, whether in distant countries or our own, for Heaven's sake let us, in all due humility, receive that chastening which a righteous Providence inflicts upon us. I certainly know not what may be the designs of Omnipotence, nor is it my purpose to offer any speculations on the probabilities of the duration of the present circumstances of the world in relation to peace. My object is to consider the state of our domestic relations, as actually existing at this time, and to offer some suggestions that seem to me worthy of public regard. It appears to me, however, that at no former period has there been such a general disposition, throughout Christendom, for prolonging the duration of a state of peace. Not only has war stamped its horrors on the minds of the people of all nations, but it has every where done this so recently that the remembrance is yet fresh and imposing. It is not to be supposed that, in the general pacification, the Sovereigns are all satisfied with the terms on which it was brought about ;—for Sovereigns make wars in order to gain advantages of others—mere tricks of state, toward getting good bargains :—but the people, generally, must desire peace, while among them, as among the Sovereigns and Rulers, there may be exceptions, and from the same motives. We all affect to deprecate a state of war ;—and yet how eagerly do we avail ourselves of the opportunity to acquire riches at the expense of others : not only an expense of treasure, but of blood—of money, but of life itself ! So general is this, that, unmindful of the miseries of war, we covet the gains of it, and murmur at being deprived of the opportunity. The whole Christian world—Christian ! nay—but that which we call such, because professing Christianity, has been, for many years, busily employed, either in studying the means for destroying life, or in furnishing them to those whose trade it was to do so ! The habits of a state of war, have fixed themselves firmly upon us : so firmly, indeed, that we are obstinately bent on maintaining them, even when, by the arm of the Almighty, the world reposes in peace. War prices, and its opportunities, are coveted by too many. And in saying this, I mean even all that I say. If I avoid adding more, and entering into details, it is only because I invite reflection, and would not prevent it by arousing the passions. My eye is on society, and not on individuals. Let others make their comments : I present only a text. We affect to deprecate a state of war ;—but eagerly seek to profit by it, some in one way, and some in another. We grieve at the miseries of war, in theory, but laugh at them in practice. We forge its implements, and gladly avail ourselves of high prices :—

Nay—I must stop. Who is he that I shall not offend, if I go on thus, with society in my eye, and my eye and my mind so full! The Wisdom of Jehovah hath called upon us to beat our swords into plough-shares, and our spears into pruning-hooks. Let us obey the summons, and cultivate the arts of peace, though the change be painful to our lusts, and the era be marked with partial ills. Though there be a storm of peace, it only follows in the train of a storm of war.

We have been the mere laborers and carriers of contending armies, until our manners partake too much of those of our employers: the nations have laid down their arms: it is time to turn all our attention upon ourselves, and cultivate the arts of peace. Not only is the naval, but the commercial marine, of the whole civilized world, by far too great for the present state of things. The commerce of the world, during peace, can never employ but a small part of the shipping which wars have produced and employed. The stagnation which commerce feels, will continue to be felt until foreign wars shall call again for supplies and foreign commerce: and a stagnation, which first affects this branch of a nation's wealth and industry, will sooner or later extend its influence over all. Far be from me the thought that I can fathom the designs of the Almighty Sovereign of the Universe. I know not what may come, by Divine appointment. But, reasoning as well as I can reason on natural events, and I venture to predict that ages shall pass away before the foreign commerce of these states will again attain its late importance. Why it is so, is not my present purpose; but the commerce of the United States will be long in presenting that proud aggregate which lately excited the jealousies of foreign states, and flattered the pride of Americans. Nor let it be imagined that, in making these remarks, I underrate the glory of our naval, or the intelligence, the skill, or the industry and enterprize of our commercial marine. All American as I am, it is impossible for me to do this. The world resounds with our praises, in these respects: but I am bound to remember there is no friendship in trade, a trite but true maxim.

What then is to be done? I answer, much—and the day is pregnant with events. The friends of America, were never called upon to do more, even when they resolved to assert the rights of nature, and claim a rank among the nations. Would we commence our labors, let us first learn to allay the spirit of party, and merge all its minor distinctions in the appellation AMERICAN. Let us learn, too, to discriminate between the qualifications of a mere party politician, and a statesman. A man may learn the art, and practise it ever so successfully, in managing a party, who has not one grain of the necessary qualifications for managing the concerns of a state. We seem only desirous of the political interests of party, and absolutely to forget that party interests are not, exclusively, the interests of the nation. We are all politicians, and all statesmen, *deeply versed in the arts of government*;—that is, the government, or rather *management*, of party; but while we have so many party-politicians, to whom we confide all the posts of honor, it may be questioned if there be not a scarcity of national-politicians, and

real statesmen. The people, must, sooner or later, learn to discriminate better, and not confide every thing to the mere acquirements and qualifications of political cunning.

The policy of party, that seizes the reins, continuing to hold them, soon gains the whip and spur ; and we are a Nation governed rather by the views and motives of party, than national-policy. In saying this I know what I say, and I do not say it without due reflection. Not only do I believe it true, but I also am fully persuaded it is high time to speak boldly. I am no party-man ; neither do I want the favor of party : nor do I hold any office, or wish, or expect any, in any event. I am an American ;—and boldly challenge all those who are such, and who are not, so show an act of my life or a sentiment of my heart, which is not in unision with the character I assume.

I may here be told, as I have been before ;—‘ the man talks well—but his plan is impracticable. No man can get along, in this country, without attaching himself to some party. Whatever his talents, acquirements, or worth, without doing this he will only remain a mere cypher.’ Such are the persuasives of even some of the most influential men in the state ;—and who have become such, only by having first gained a *character* in the ranks of party ! What kind of character, let partisans enquire.

But I have not time to dwell on the innumerable topics that present themselves for examination. The Legislator may find enough to do. Our money institutions, if not modelled after the very worst plan that can be devised, are at least so modelled as to demand his care. And in looking around for other subjects that call for consideration, he will find none of greater importance, in a national point of view, calling for Legislative attention, than that I have just named. Its evils, like the plagues of Egypt, are extending their ravages every where : from the city to the hamlet, from the vallies to the plains. Much, very much remains to be done toward improving our Roads, opening new ones, and extending the facilities of general intercourse, as well by these means as by cutting Canals, and improving the navigation of our rivers. Our internal Commerce, demands more attention—that which is external, in a country maritime and every where open to the ocean, needs little other encouragement than to see that our agriculture shall furnish supplies for it. We have by far too much foreign trade, for our domestic—too much commerce, for the surplus yielded by our agriculture.

What, then, are the prominent features of that prospective policy which you would propose for the interest of America ? I answer—individual independence, and freedom from debt. This is desirable every where, and the people are every where beginning to feel that it is so. To enable the people to enjoy these blessings, is the only way to promote our national prosperity. The interests of Agriculture, demand early and unceasing attention. The Legislator should devise the means for increasing the amount of the products of agriculture, before he seek to divert any portion of our strength into other channels. The strength of a nation, circumstanced as are the United States, depends upon the disposable resources,

which its surplus, from the products of agriculture, may yield. When this surplus is small in amount, we are, as a nation, comparatively poor; and rich, when it is great. A little reflection may assure us of this. Our strength, then, lies in labor, and that principally, in the labor bestowed on agriculture: but in saying this I mean to include also that portion of labor which is more immediately required for auxiliary aids, in agriculture, with the whole of the varied labors of those devoted to farming. These labors embrace such works of the mechanic arts as derive their support immediately from the farmers, with all the various manufactures and works of household economy. Farmers, blacksmiths, nail makers, tanners and curriers, carpenters, weavers, shoe makers; iron foundries, including furnaces, and forges or bloomeries, mills for grinding and sawing, carding-machines, paper-mills, and a vast variety of domestic trades and tradesmen, are all included in this view, because all are necessary to the support of agriculture, and that they form integral parts of an agricultural community. To this enumeration of trades and tradesmen, many others might be now added, were my object historical accuracy instead of a general view; and the wants of society are constantly calling for additions. What they are, that are so demanded, will readily be discovered by individual intelligence and enterprize; and the Legislator may wait for indications from these sources, without any prejudice to our national interests. Whatever is essential to the interests of those employed in agriculture, may be assumed as of the same degree of importance to the interests of the state at large. I may be laboring under a mistake in these views; but it clearly seems to me that our first care should be to increase the surplus of our agricultural productions, and to feed and stimulate the love of gain among those who constitute the farming interest in America. In a country like ours, where land is comparatively cheap, and the taxes on it are low, the first source of wealth is the soil. It is not the poverty of farmers that will drive them to manufacturing, so long as land may be rented at 15 to 20, and even 30 years' purchase, or bought at fewer dollars per acre than the British farmer pays for annual rents. Great manufacturing establishments, must derive their support, in this country, from agricultural, rather than commercial opulence. But, left to themselves, the farmers will nourish manufactures, and increase them, in variety and amount, quite as fast as their accumulation of capital will allow them to detach some portion for this purpose. It is in vain to talk about patriotism, in this, or any other money-making business: as are all attempts to force it, so long as money cannot be made by it. This, is, however, an age of hobby-riding;—and cunning men—the sharpers and speculators, want corporate funds to manage, for no other reason but because they can enrich themselves more readily in this way, than by the drudgery of individual and unaided industry. I could dwell much longer on this topic, and make it, with our late experience, even a record of facts, in support of my theory—but I forbear. It is not, merely, to call public attention to what I here present, that I have taken the pen; but to call,—and entreat that

the people would take time to reflect on the subjects that present themselves for consideration. If I have not dwelt more upon them, it is only owing to a want of leisure and ability. More, however, would have been said concerning the policy of encouraging such kinds of manufactures, as must be carried on in large establishments, if that subject had not been previously discussed, in a separate Paper, for your Magazine.

The prosperity of a state, circumstanced as is that of America, may be truly said to be founded on its agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing resources, and the general prosperity of all these interests. We are, essentially, an agricultural people. If to this we add, commercial, and manufacturing, these interests are secondary, derived from, and supported by, the surplus which the products of agriculture yield, after maintaining the population that it employs. Should the earth withhold its bounty, or the seasons frown upon us, so that we have none of this surplus, our commerce must fail. All the other arts, are supported by this surplus. If agriculture yield none, what becomes of trade? If it yield much, there is much to trade upon—if little, less. Would the real statesman point out the sources of individual and national opulence and wealth, he must devise the means for increasing the aggregate amount of this surplus. A small state, the inhabitants of a little island, of even a populous city, may live, and grow rich, on the profits of a carrying or foreign trade, even without any surplus of the profits of agriculture. But can a nation of farmers—such a community as I have described, and which every man knows to be a picture of society in these states; can such a society do this? Our first business lies in giving such effect to the operations of husbandry, as to produce the greatest possible quantity of this surplus. How to effect this, is the business of legislators and statesmen, aided, as they are sure to be, by the co-operation of the farmers, the domestic mechanics supported by them, and by the exertions of all those who seek an honorable independence through the fruits of their labors;—this is the general interest—the interest of a whole community, embracing as many degrees of latitude and longitude as some of the *manufacturing states of the old world do of square miles!* To think of transplanting their habits, and of nurturing here the prejudices that have grown out of them, is rank madness. If we were more careful to import from these foreign states, their knowledge of farming and gardening, of domestic stock, and the arts connected with husbandry in general, it would be well for us. There is no branch of this business so much neglected in America, as that in relation to stock, or such animals as the farm should be stocked with.

This subject demands the care of the American Legislator. By what means he could best direct public attention to it, I know not: but I am sure he would be a public benefactor who should produce this desired effect. In Europe, it is generally admitted that much good has been done, in this respect, by the institution of Public Fairs, as well for the purchase and sale of domestic animals, as for every other description of property. Whether the same means is calculated to succeed well here, I know not; but I am inclined

to believe that, at least, the experiment is worth a trial. The object is, agricultural competition; and fairs may very probably produce this, as readily and effectually as any other means that can be devised. Agricultural Societies, have done much good in the states of Europe; and we have witnessed something of their beneficial effects in America; as much, at least, as could have been expected, considering the paucity of their numbers, and the short periods of time and the limited means, within which their operations have been circumscribed. The experiments of Public Fairs, too, so far as it has yet been tried in America, has fully answered the expectations of its friends. To give a suitable impulse to these efforts, the aid of the Legislature seems necessary; and I can but hope that aid will be promptly afforded. The granting of premiums, seems to be a very essential part of a system of this kind; and for these, public funds may well be appropriated. Without such aid there would be very little chance of final success. And as, in all experiments of this sort, much depends upon the success of a first effort, I would beg leave to suggest that, should it be attempted, great care will be necessary not only in adapting the means, but the manner and magnitude of it, at first, so as to ensure final success. Contemplating the probability that the Legislature of the state of New-York may act on a plan of this kind, I take the liberty to propose, that, should it do so, its operations may be confined, at first, to some few Counties, where the plan may have the most advocates, and the facilities for its execution are known to be commanding. When its operations are seen here, people have grown familiar with them, and are convinced of their beneficial effects, the system may be readily extended to embrace every county. A proposition for Public Fairs, lately originated with the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts. I have objected to the details of the plan, but not to the principle, which I wished much to see not only fairly investigated, but put to actual experiment, and conducted to final and complete success. With the precautions that I have just suggested, I have intimated all that I had then, or have now, to object, except that, in the form contemplated by the Society of Arts, I felt fully persuaded the Legislature would not be disposed to act upon it, and thus we should fail at the first step of a first effort.

A great deal has been said about Agricultural Societies, and many people seem to indulge great expectations from them. In a country where the pursuits of agriculture have engrossed the attention of men of wealth, of leisure; and particularly of men of Science, much may be done in this way. I am of the opinion, however, that, in order to derive from these institutions the important advantages that we expect, there must be far more of practical acquaintance with these subjects among men of science and wealth. Until it shall have happened that Farming and Gardening have become more fashionable among men of this description, we will find few of them capable of giving any very important aid to the practical agriculturalist. There are some districts of this State, where without any, or but very little aid from men of science, the art of farming is carried to very high perfection: where are the places to be found,

enriched in the same way, by the labors of Science? Around Philadelphia, the men of science, of leisure, and opulence, have devoted much of their attention to agriculture. They have united their industry and skill with that of the ordinary Farmer—and the consequences are distinctly seen, by even the most casual observer. Where are our Gentlemen-Farmers, in the district around the Capitol of this State? I know there are some, and I wish there were a great many more: for we have many men of great wealth, retired from business or living without it; and before much can be expected from Agricultural Societies, we must have such, and contrive to unite their efforts with those of the ordinary Farmer. These remarks, however, are not made to dissuade from any attempts that may promise beneficial results; but only to intimate our present wants, and that remedy which circumstances so clearly demand. I may have less confidence in the ability of any association of men, who do not unite the knowledge of science and practical agriculture, to superintend and direct its efforts and interests, than most others;—but could we unite men of this description with the most intelligent of those who are, by habit, actual and good Farmers, I should expect as much from their joint labors as would any other man. There is, probably, less of what may be called theory, in the art of Farming, even as practised by the best of Farmers, than in almost any other art, trade or employment, to which so many devote their time. In the County of Dutchess, in this State, we may see a better specimen of good Farming than in any other County around us: if habit perpetuate, here, the most approved methods, so much the better: and it is habit, almost exclusively, that directs the agriculture of that County. Would we acquire a knowledge of its modes, and extend this knowledge for the benefit of other, and every part of the country, the agents that we employ must be, principally, actual Farmers. Were there an Agricultural Society for the State, and branches in every County, and these Societies composed of men such as I have mentioned, it would be easy to extend a knowledge of the improvements of one district, into others, and even all. Committees from all these Societies, comprising scientific agriculturalists, and the most intelligent and observing men among the best actual Farmers, by visiting every part, and presenting an annual Report to the State Society, or the several County Societies, might be the means of collecting and diffusing all that is known among us that is valuable to the Husbandman. The actual Farmer, takes no lessons from the mere theorist in agriculture, however richly imbued with the knowledge of science; but let the man of science reduce his knowledge to practise, and become, himself, a successful agriculturalist, and the Farmer will greedily adopt all his improvements. In this way, science may administer to the wants of agriculture, and agriculture to those of Science: And whatever of improvements that may be thus introduced, will be perpetuated by men whose habits constitute their knowledge and the source of their gains. With the mass of Farmers, farming, whether good or bad, will forever remain an Art, rather than a Science. For the justness of this remark, and the consideration that it claims

from those who would instruct the Farmer in the art of farming, without being himself a Farmer, I appeal to those who have had the best opportunities for observation. If, therefore, from Agricultural Societies, the institution of Public Fairs, the granting of Premiums, the publication of the Transactions of Agricultural Societies, or any such kind of plan or system of measures, we would carry the spirit of improvement into general operation among the Farmers, it must be done, principally, by the influence of example, and the agency of practical Agriculturalists.

AGRICOLA.

Albany, March, 1816.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

If it ever has happened to you to be in a mixed company, among people rather polite, where some person, who, meaning to be civil, has not yet properly understood the distinction between mere civility and politeness;—if you have heard them converse, and seen how much there is in *manner*, you have then seen the disadvantage, and can judge of the predicament in which I shall appear in the following pages. I really am not prepared for the labor of writing an Essay—and yet I have taken the pen with an intention to write a long Paper for your miscellany!

During these long winter evenings, my intention is to indulge the freedom of my thoughts, and to write whatever they may suggest to me. An old Farmer, at my time of life, has a great deal to occupy his attention;—and yet he has, especially at this season of the year, a good deal of time for the indulgence of thought, though he may have no adequate inducement for submitting to the labor of thinking—and, still less, to that of writing. If I write for my own amusement, you can do just as you please about presenting what I shall write to your company.

THOUGHTS, ON PHILOSOPHICAL SCIENCE, ON CREATION, AND
THE ORDER AND CONSTITUTION OF NATURE.

In medias res. Hor.

I have been thinking that what is called Philosophical Science, abounds with great mistakes, if, indeed, I yet remember correctly what I learnt about it at School. The Earth is a globe, which revolves daily on its axis, as it travels onward in its annual course around the Sun. Its periodic revolutions are probably determined with accuracy;—but whether its precise figure is yet well understood, may admit of some doubts. Instead of an oblate spheroid, I rather incline to think it ovate, or egg-shaped, with the largest end N. of the equator. My reasons for this opinion will be indicated in another place.

I have long suspected that 'Philosophy,' does not philosophize well, in supposing that the matter which composes this globe, is more dense or compact at the Earth's centre, than near the surface. The effect of its motions, has not been duly considered, unless my thoughts deceive me. I suppose that the greatest specific gravity of this matter, lies near the surface—or, in other words, that the most dense of all the matter that composes this globe, is now arranged so

near the surface as to compose a sort of crust, or shell, which surrounds the Earth, or nearly so: That this shell has been formed from the watery mass, giving its heaviest substances first, and lighter in succession, which are thus stratified, by successive depositions, accumulating underneath: and that it now occupies, every where, a position more or less remote from the Earth's centre, in proportion as its specific gravity is greater or less;—the heaviest portion being the most remote, or the highest on the surface.

I take it for granted, that this Earth, like every thing else has had its beginning of existence—and that, at first, it was but a soft mass of matter. Every body, I think, will acknowledge that this is highly probable, because that, every where, we yet find so many circumstances to indicate this state of things.

Suppose, then, that this globe were once a fluid mass—just such an heterogeneous mass of matter as a mixture of all its earthy and fluid particles would form, when it was ‘without form, and void,’ and when ‘darkness was on the face of the deep.’ Let us suppose it just created, composed of the elements of all things that now constitute a habitable globe, existing yet but in elemental embryo, and just thrown off in its eternal circuit around the Sun, while it is rapidly turning on its own axis.

I pause, here, to meditate. The wisdom of the Deity need but to form the elements of things, and His great Works proceed in their order. Few, indeed, are the real elements of all that is ‘in the earth, in the air, and in the sea.’ But, of all this mass of matter, however composed at the first, the waters form by far the largest portion; and of course the whole would constitute a kind of muddy mixture, if I may so express myself—a heterogeneous semi-fluid, pervading the whole globe. The elements of water—of atmospheric air;—of all that infinite variety of existence which now fills the Earth every where; of all those various productions that administer alike to the wants of man and the inferior beings that animate all nature;—of all these, the constituent elements were but very few. But then we must remember that the grand Architect, the Creator and Founder of all, was God, in whom is centered Omnipotence. I hardly dare declare how very few in number I consider these really elementary substances. Neither air, nor water, are such; nor, in my opinion, are any of the gaseous, or aeriform fluids, except, indeed, caloric, which I suspect to have been the only elementary or original fluid. But let us consider this globe, as it may be supposed to have existed, after the composition of its watery matter, or what may be conceived the Creation. Let us consider this mass of matter collected, united by the affinities of its parts, or by their mutual attraction, and just thrown, by the creative power of Deity, into that circuit of motions in which it is forever designed to move. Turning rapidly on its axis, all the substances of which it is composed would feel an influence of centrifugal action or force, exactly in proportion to their several specific gravities, and their relative distances from the centre of its motions. The heaviest, then, feeling this most, would first be driven from the centre toward the surface, instead of being drawn toward the centre; and this would continue

until the heavier substances were all arranged there, and the lighter collected in the centre. This will appear evident when we consider the great magnitude of the Earth, and the rapidity of its motions.

Whether this globe has always revolved on its axis in the same period of time that it now does, may admit of some doubt, if we permit ourselves to reason upon it according to the principles that I have assumed. I rather suppose its revolutions were performed in much less time before, than ever since the flood: but on this subject I intend to say more by-and-by. Most natural substances are capable of undergoing great changes; and even of existing under circumstances so widely variant as to seem new substances. Probably no metallic, or perhaps mineral substance, undergoes so many changes, or performs, in the economy of nature, functions so important, as Iron. In its gaseous state as we shall see by-and-by, it assumes the characters of a new fluid, and exhibits when combined with caloric, the phenomena of electricity, becoming the prolific agent from which the lightning, and thunder, and the rainbow, are produced. Caloric, and oxygene, combined in effect, convert iron to gas, as I have shown in another place;—and a long time must have elapsed, after the Creation, before there was any considerable quantity of metallic gases in the atmosphere. But let us proceed in our view of the Creation, and the order of natural causes and effects.

Turning again to the contemplation of a vast globe, such as I have supposed this once to have been, soft and unformed, plastic from the hand of Deity, let us meditate on the effect of its motions. Revolving on its axis, with a rapidity of motion of which we can but faintly conceive, the heaviest substances, of the grosser kind, are precipitated from this watery mass, and thrown toward the surface by the natural operation of centrifugal forces:—and by the law of affinities, being mutually attracted, these particles are here aggregated into separate masses, and finally into one. This mass, composed of the heaviest substances, recedes further from the centre than such as are lighter, and of course protrudes beyond the general outline of surface. Here, then, is a hillock, a hill, a mountain—constantly extending its base, and growing larger and higher for a great many ages. A primitive mountain, in the language of modern geologists, because one of the first formed, and its stratification is uniform, regular and undisturbed. Why should it not be? The more ponderous of the earthy substances that form this mass of matter, being thus raised up to day, feel the influence of alternate heat and cold, dryness and moisture, till at last the whole is converted into earth and stone. In time it becomes a mountain of granite, its summits towering in the clouds, or serving as a landmark for the smaller masses that float on the great deep, seeking the fellowships of affinity. Attracting, and attracted, ‘your guide is sure’;—and thus these masses are arranging themselves around the foot of the parent-mount, to form, in time, secondary mountains. Making their obeisance, as they come into contact, their stratification is disturbed—the strata broken and disjointed, and variously dipped or inclined to the horizon. By the impetus of

the force of contact, how many broken-hillocks have been miserably crushed to shapeless forms, or driven from their *ancient* homes ! But nature, true to itself, as if abhorring the wrong, hath stamped the image of violence on the features of the country thus seized by force. Let the philosophical geologist carry this remark with him when he surveys the arrangement, the stratification of the general features of hilly and mountainous regions, and he may gain instruction from their shapeless forms. These hills are also converted to stone ; and by their joint influence, the mountain of granite rises higher and higher, while its strata preserve their regularity, although the globe is only encrusted with earth, and that but partially. The poles of the globe being fixed at the N. and S., these lands, rising into mountains, grow to Continents, and necessarily extend themselves in a direction not widely differing from that of the polar axis.

Here, then, is one Continent formed, elevated above the general surface, only because land is heavier than water, and while yet we may suppose that surface occupied by the great deep, sustaining here and there a floating Island of land. Now suppose, reader, we here pause awhile. For if I reason well, the effect of this Continent, will be, to occasion an inequality in the rotary motion of this great globe ! and this inequality must produce another Continent, on the opposite side ! It is so, surely. Well—here then, are two great Continents, but the one must have been formed before the other, though by the same process. The Old, and the New ! Now, it is not worth while to stop and speculate on the thought of the moment—whether the Eastern or the Western Continent be the oldest—let us look at their mountains. I suppose the one first formed, will not have the highest mountains, nor will they be so continuous in their chains, so uniform in duration, or in altitude. Nor are its secondary hills so high, or so rich in the finer metals—although more ponderous ; for, from the very fineness of their particles they would not be precipitated so soon. For this reason, few of these can exist in primitive mountains, or those of the earliest formation, except at far greater depths. All the varieties of stones, have been formed from earth, by the operation of heat and cold, dryness and moisture. There could have been no stones, until long after ‘ the dry land appeared.’ The limestones, and slates, in all their varieties, have been formed from clay, or alumine ; and of course no calcereous or shistic stones were formed until long after the silicious masses of granitic mountains, unquestionably the primeval order of stones.

Has every part of this globe, then, been washed by water—or rather, has the land, every where, been formed in water, from which it has finally emerged ? I suppose so—and that the reflections on this subject which have fully convinced me of this fact, would, on examination, afford conclusive evidence to others.—If so, then, what becomes of the popular philosophy of the age, which supposes a state of things exactly the reverse of this theory ? and that the centre of this globe is so pressed by the superincumbent mass, as to be some thousand times more dense than the matter at its surface !

But—in this kind of speculation, where is the influence of cen-

tripetal action, or force, all this time? Let us move slowly, and we shall see. Centripetal action, I think, is the opposite of centrifugal. Suppose, now, that the wisdom of the Deity were employed in forming a Globe, like this Earth, and in giving it a velocity of motion on its axis exactly proportioned to its quantity of matter, and of course to its bulk or capacity. Would it not, on the true principles of natural philosophy, which science has assumed, be possible, for the infinite mind of Deity, so to proportion these, that, exactly at the surface, the influence of one of these forces should form a perfect counterpoise for the other? May there not be, in the motion, and quantity of matter, of this planet, some point assumed, where these forces produce this perfect counterpoise? I suppose so, and that all cometary and planetary bodies are so formed and proportioned, in all respects, that this effect is invariably produced. This may be new philosophy, or it may be new-doctrine to the philosophers—but it is very simple, nevertheless. In my opinion, the doctrine is not more simple, however, than it is sound, and here I leave it for the consideration of others. The wisdom of Deity moves in perfection, and all nature is governed by very simple laws.

Hitherto we have been contemplating the Earth, as moving exactly in the place of its orbit, which it does not do, but under an angle of inclination equal to about 23 1-2 deg. By-and-by I shall come to a thought on this subject that may seem a little wild. The Earth has now this angle of inclination, whether it always had so much, or whether any, or not. Suppose it moved, formerly, exactly in the plane of its orbit—the seasons, then, or those annual successions of heat and cold, summer and winter, seedtime and harvest, which we now enjoy, would have been unknown and there would have been no other changes of temperature than what were occasioned by the succession of day and night. Mountains would have been piled up, under the equator, diminishing in height towards each pole, precisely according to the latitude: nor would there have been any atmosphere at the poles, capable of supporting animal life; nor would the tides have been known, if my speculations are well founded.

If there be any thing at the centre of the earth, I suppose it must probably be ice, instead of that central fire which some have imagined to be confined there;—ice formed from clear water, extending through from pole to pole. Here, again, I pause, to indulge reflection. Are not earthquakes occasioned, sometimes, by the motion of huge masses of ice in the bowels of the earth? At any rate, the line of direction in which these mighty convulsions move, seem conformable to the features of the country, and the ranges of mountains and highlands adjacent and the principal waters.

Here let us pause a little longer to examine the effects which must result from this kind of reasoning, applied, as we have seen, to the original materials of which this globe consisted, ‘while yet it was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep,’—ere ‘the waters’ had been ‘gathered together unto one place,’ or ‘the firmament had been formed,’ and ‘the dry land had appeared, to divide the waters from the waters.’ The *days of Crea-*

tion, in the order of the Deity, may well be deemed *ages*, or *times*, by man. It is not my purpose to attempt a treatise on the creation, but I recommend an attentive perusal of the history of this great work, as it is recorded in the book of Genesis, of the Bible. If it can be read in the Hebrew, so much the better; and I feel fully persuaded that every person will the more readily embrace my theory, for having recently studied this volume of inspiration. I am delighted with the history of the creation in that book, and often turn to it with fresh delight and admiration. To my mind, the proof is strong that I derive from it, in confirmation of this theory of mine. But—I leave these reflections, while I survey the subsequent arrangement of the natural elements, in which I must be indulged with repetition and every informality. There were probably no stones created at the beginning. These are the products of those natural causes, which, conformably to the wisdom of the plans of the Divine mind, do govern the natural world or the world of matter. Now—if I philosophize correctly, in supposing that, were the materials of this earth once in a semi-fluid state, then the heaviest substances would first be precipitated from this mass of turbid, muddy matter; and that they, in consequence of their greater specific gravity, would be thrown towards the surface, instead of accumulating at the centre, then must we reverse, in toto, the popular philosophy of the present day, relating to this subject, in order to come at the truth. Whether or not, let us have patience to examine. Were the globe at rest; or—if it had no diurnal motion on its axis, all the materials of which it is composed, supposing them originally in a fluid or semi-fluid state, would be arranged from the centre, in the direct ratio of their density or specific gravity: but the effect of this motion, has given them an arrangement precisely the reverse of this—so that all substances are remote or distant from the centre, according to the inverse ratio of their weight. And why not? Why!—the doctrine is *new*, and must be rejected. But suppose it were *old*? It would then be more simple than the old, more philosophical, and much more easily reconciled with appearances. Are not these inferences necessarily and obviously founded on the Newtonian philosophy? Certainly—as I think,—and if so, they will become old doctrines, in good time.

I suppose that, at an early period of the ‘world,’ a large portion of liquid matter of the inflammable kind, was produced in the form of liquid bitumen. It is a compound, not a primitive, elementary substance, though it has become the prolific parent of many that we now consider such. This substance, being lighter than any of the earthy or metallic substances, would be precipitated at a later period—occupying a middle ground, between the lighter of the earthy substances, and the water underneath. This bitumen, I consider the base of hydrogen—and that of course it has undergone great changes. But I waive this consideration just now, and proceed to suggest that there, probably, it may still exist, in vast fields or seas of liquid bitumen, neither at the centre nor at the surface of this earth. Allied to the metallic matter, it adheres to their great masses, supplying, in time, the chief material for converting them to use. This is the substance from which the great bodies of mineral coal are

formed, and it is easy to conceive by what process. The operation of the elements, and the changes of heat and cold, having volatilized a part of this substance, convert the residue into an indurated, stony fossil, more or less purely inflammable according to its purity. There are probably no countries on this globe, but what, at some depth, are underlaid by bitumenous coal, by liquid bitumen, or perhaps both. Were I now writing a treatise on natural philosophy, I should here stop to consider the distinction between what I consider bitumenous coal, and coal formed from vegetable remains. Any ligneous substance, that can, by distillation, be made to yield an inflammable gas, is capable of being converted, by a process of nature, into a mineral coal. Probably, however, the bitumen of which I have been speaking, being very universally diffused throughout nature, may be the original stock from which every other inflammable substance has derived this characteristic. Hydrogene, I believe to be formed from this, as a base; and, however modified and disguised, in all its varied forms of combination, that all inflammability is produced from bitumen, or from bitumenous gas. Coal, according to my idea of its origin, is but of two kinds, however modified and numerous its varieties. The purest samples of bitumenous coal, differ in no respect from bitumen, only in having lost a small portion of the more volatile of its constituent parts, by which it is converted into an indurated bitumen, and rendered capable of holding a larger portion of caloric in a latent state. It is now most aptly fitted for the use of man in the arts—and by different degrees of heat, may be reconverted to a liquid bitumen, or a bitumenous gas! Old coal, therefore, differs from new, as both differ from bitumen; and that which has long lain near the surface of the earth, where it has been exposed to the action of varying temperatures, from that which has lain deeper in the ground, and less exposed to the action of these causes of change. Time, alone, is capable of decomposing it, leaving inflammable gas, or hydrogene, sulphur, and some earthy remains. Whatever, in the order of time, by the operation of natural causes, has been produced, may, in the same order, be again destroyed and reproduced. The earth thus yields its stores to the air, the air to living products, and these to the earth again: while the real number of elementary substances may be infinitely less than we imagine. I have my doubts if there be but one elementary earth. Time must determine, while theory is forever busy in building, to destroy, and rising, to fall. Stones are heavier than the earth of which they are composed;—coal, than liquid bitumen. Thus bitumenous tracts, converted to coal, rise higher from the centre of the earth, in proportion as their specific gravity is increased by induration. And by being washed of the soil, in hilly countries, the coal-seams are at length exposed to view. I believe that, as a general rule, coal is found at a less depth, on the West, than on the East, of the ranges of mountains, in all countries. It has often occurred to me that the formation of basaltic columns is erroneously attributed, exclusively, to the action of either fire or water, though they may have been produced by both these causes. May they not also, have been produced by the mere mechanical pressure of large masses of earth? It is not certain, nor indeed is

it probable, that these columns were ever formed above ground, though they now may appear so. I am disposed to assign great effects to the action of volcanic fires; and I purpose to say something about them by-and-by.

I have thought that philosophy is mistaken in supposing the existence of repulsion;—Is it not a weaker degree of attraction that we call such? Or rather, is it not occasioned by a countervailing attraction? Magnetism, and electricity, are natural results from the constitution of nature, and did not exist from the beginning. The earth is a great magnet, from the position of its axis, and the arrangement of its metallic matter. Were its poles changed to E. and W., the magnetic needle would soon lie in the same direction. We may discover, by-and-by, that our correction of the variation of the magnetic needle, is much like correcting the Sun, by the time of our time-keepers!

There is no subject presented to the mind, by a survey of philosophical science, which seems to me so full of matter for new research, as the doctrine of the formation of gases. All the solid substances, known to us, are capable of being converted into some kind of gas; and again reconverted to a solid. To me, this subject presents a world of wonders. To contemplate the endless transmutations of matter, in this way, opens a field, which, when I attempt to enter, makes me duly sensible of the comparative littleness and incompetency of that portion of mind which I enjoy. The operations of nature, all run in circles;—who can trace them! I have satisfied myself that no gas with which I am acquainted, is a simple, elementary substance. They are among the products of all-prolific nature—prolific only in transmutations and changes—for God, only, can create matter. Here, again, I am forced back to consider that single fluid—the only one that was absolutely created by the Almighty, of all that numerous host in the natural world, which we now know, or conceive we know. This fluid, of which we know a great deal, by its effects, we denominate Caloric. Probably no inhabitant of this earth, has ever yet enjoyed the sight of this fluid, in a perfectly pure state: nor do I believe we ever can, with merely human eyes and perceptions. But, this is a subject beyond my present purpose, though I love to contemplate and enjoy it. United with the mineral and metallic gases, some of the forms it assumes are familiar to most of us, though science has by no means attached a due degree of importance to the consideration of these matters. I suppose that what we denominate the electric fluid, is simply a compound of caloric with these gases. Every electrical machine, therefore, that collects this fluid, is a real manufactory, beside that it serves to collect what may be already existing in the surrounding air. The amalgam, and the heat produced by friction, supply the materials from which it is actually produced, the quantity of which, as I suspect, is always in proportion to the heat applied to the amalgam, and the consumption of its metallic matter. Lightning, then, is an effect of electricity, an effort of this fluid to equalize the distribution; and what we call electricity, is produced by the agency of heat, as seen in evaporation, principally, and the changes occasioned.

by varying temperatures. The Sun, as well as the earth, is the work of Deity in Creation; and Caloric, the only created fluid of the natural world, is the sole cause of fluidity throughout its wide, its vast domain. However much this fluid might abound, it could only be visible to such perceptions as ours, when transmitted through media capable of refraction: or, in other words, when compounded with the invisible fluids that its own action had produced. Hence, until evaporation had commenced, and the formation of an atmosphere, the whole globe would be constantly involved in utter darkness. "In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth. And the earth was without form and void; and *darkness* was upon the face of the *deep*. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the *waters*: and God said let there be *light*, and there was *light*." "The Lord God had not caused it to *rain* upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there *went up a mist* from the earth; and watered the whole face of the ground. And the Lord God formed man, &c."—I can think of nothing to add, here, so completely do I think this scripture to my purpose; and after again commending a perusal of the Mosaic account of the Creation to all my readers, I proceed on my way.

There is a great deal of water, or of the elements that form water, in the composition of most substances with which we are acquainted. A large portion of water enters into the composition of stones, of every kind. This circumstance must have diminished, at some periods of time, the actual quantity of water on this globe, and in a very considerable degree. Not that the materials which form water have ever been diminished, but the quantity of the fluid itself, in consequence of its new combinations. Whatever has once been water, or capable of composing it, may become so again, and probably will do so, in succession, to the end of time: and that nothing thereof will be lost. The hardest rock, decomposed by the operations of all-conquering time, must give out its water of petrification, or of crystallization, in some form or other, in time, perhaps to be again re-composed with the same kind of materials. The reader will bear in mind that I am merely writing my thoughts, in their own order—and not attempting a treatise, or an essay.

I am inclined to a belief that some one of the order of fossils denominated salts, is a primitive, elementary substance; and that our common salt, now called a muriate of soda, is that salt! Since I have hazarded so novel and bold a conjecture, I must go a little further, to say, that, in my opinion this salt is the base alike of all the other salts, and of those substances called alkalies! For these conjectures, I expect more indulgence with posterity, than with the men of the present age. The alkalies are all compounds—are all the salts? The existence of the metals, in these combinations, will by-and-by only be cited as proofs of the correctness of these conjectures, rather than that a *new* metal is discovered! Modern Chemistry, a science most admirably adapted for extending the sphere of accurate knowledge, is reposing too much on hypothesis, already, and too little on demonstration and fact. Young as it is, it has accumulated a great mass of error, the rubbish of general and hasty theory, which time must brush away.

The saline particles from which the crystals of salt have been since produced, on being precipitated from the elementary mass of matter, would take a position according to the specific gravity of their composition. Salt water is heavier than fresh—and of course would accumulate toward the surface, leaving the fresh underneath, or toward the centre. By the operation of heat, and the influence of varying temperatures, crystals of salt would in time be formed from this water, exactly as bitumenous coal is formed from bitumen, while new gases are evolved by the transmutation.

In the beginning, there was no mist of vapor, nor dew, nor rain : no clouds, or atmosphere : the earth was without form and void, and darkness covered the face of the deep. When the land arose, with the mist of vapor, Man was created, to till the ground. The dews and rains formed water-courses, of which there were none in the beginning. As the land emerged from the water, and evaporation formed vapor and an atmosphere, the changes of temperature would so rarefy and condense this vapor, alternately, as to produce, first dews, then showers of rain. These causes would begin to form descending currents and water-courses. As the mass of earth was increased in extent, the summits first formed would rise higher and higher, as already shown, till the little hillock has become a mountain, and the mountain a continent ! Thus, then, the 'firmament' being extended, the little rill has become a mighty river, stretching from that summit which first saw the light, through the glen and dale, adown the mountain torrent, and across the plain to the sea ! What a field is here, for what a poet might call the inspiration of his muse ! Lord ! how wonderful are thy works ! In my meditations, I love to trace thy power, and dwell upon thy goodness ! Behold !—the morning of Creation ! In the vast field of matter before me, just beginning to be, and but faintly illumined by the light of the Sun, I see a little hillock peeping its head above the waters. The first offering of nature to yonder glorious luminary, is collecting in splendid, fleecy curls around this lonely head : see, the mists of vapor ascend its sides, and settle on its brow, which is fast mounting upward. I see the meeting of numerous floating islets, and watch the operations and the force of nature. A mountain rises to my view, with clouds, and storms, the lightning playing round its head. The rains descend, and swell the little brooks to torrents, while ruin threatens all before me, so black and dreadful is this mighty tempest. While yet so young, I grieve to see this wreck of nature, its form so fair and good ! The thunders roll—a voice divine bids me not fear—'these are the sports, and not the wars of nature.' Calmly I wait the event, and look ;—till, as I gaze, the mountains seem to rise in air ; the plains to spread ;—the rivers sweep their way, and reach beyond my view ;—and lo ! volcanoes blaze around me ;—here are the Andes—there the Maragnon ! Of mountains, and of rivers, these are the chief. The work is finished, and lo ! a globe, a world !

Here we must pause to look about us. Though the Earth were once a soft, muddy, semi-fluid mass throughout, yet long ere the era of rivers it had ceased to be such. In its general form, it had

become flattened at its poles, and the region of the equator;—so that its profile presented the resemblance of a circle flattened on 4 sides, or that of a square, rounded at its 4 angles. These features of progressive effect were not permanent, except in part; but to trace their changes is not my present object, which is to illustrate the order and progress of nature in extending the operations of fluids on the Earth's surface. Keeping this object in view, I must be indulged with repetition, and all of my own peculiarities. The land, then, is all alluvial, for it has all been formed from the deposits of water: how, I have already shown. How its exterior features have been changed by the washing of the waters on its exterior surface, remains to be considered. The loftiest summits of the highest mountains, now buried in eternal snows, and hidden behind the clouds, were once little islands of earth, just emerging from the great deep, without stones or rocks or water-courses. In this early age, when the land was hardly yet dry, and there were no rocks in the earth, the operation of running water was great and sudden in changing the appearance of the earth's surface, as well in water-courses, as every where. But—owing to the irregularity of the surface, the waters of the ocean in receding from the rising summits, had left vast inland seas of salt water, whose barriers prevented an immediate discharge. In time, filled by the alluvion of the waters from the hills; or drained by the operation of streams that issue from them, through the passes of the barrier hills, this sea disappears, and its bottom becomes dry land! Rinsed by the washing of the rains, no saltness remains—and science may search in vain for its ancient barriers;—nor less in vain are the speculations of the philosophers, to account for the phenomena which have marked the recess of this ancient sea. And the Naturalist—but I must leave them all, and proceed, mentally pleased with their speculations, and that mass of natural curiosities which they are collecting in heaps. Had these waters never formed an outlet, here had been still a lake, or sea of salt-water, where now are the towers and temples of numerous cities, and all the nameless varieties of active and busy life. Where, now, in the midst of yon populous city, there stand, in clusters, the temples devoted to religion and the sciences; whence issue the learned men whose labors have just now so amused my mental eye,—was once the unfathomable depth of a vast lake of fresh water. Tradition had told the fishermen, that, many ages since, this lake had been a sea of brine, and tradition, only, had been credulous enough to believe it. Had the waters of this inland sea never found an outlet, they would still have remained there, and still have remained salt, from which they have been so gradually and effectually purged, that even tradition no longer believes what they were. Inland seas, every where on this globe, which have no outlet, are salt seas still. Our American Mediterranean, or inland seas, of fresh water, from Lake Superior to Ontario, were once oceans of salt water; and but for their mighty outlet, had remained so still. Such has been the process of change! Every valley, which had its early barriers, has been a sea or lake, and in the same way has been drained of its waters and freshen-

ed, if fresh they are. If these barriers were worn away at an early period, before the stones and rocks had been formed, or had acquired their hardness, they are probably worn down to near the level of the stream, which may now find its way to the parent ocean without a cataract. Water-courses do not wear away the rocks so completely as to form an unobstructed passage, and entire, only where they have encountered them in a state of softness, compared with what they are at the present day. But, in an early age, it is easy to imagine with what rapidity a great change may have been wrought in this way. Ascending vapors, are conducted obliquely upward, by the acclivities of hills and mountains, till they gain their summits, where they rest till dissipated by the power of heat. It is this vapor which forms clouds and rain and snow—which supplies to the mountain-products that heat and moisture which they require—by which the changes and transmutations of things are wonderfully quickened, and the active processes of nature are carried on. I have said that the sides of hills are natural conductors for the ascent of vapors, formed by evaporation, and that these vapors accumulate around their summits. This is true of hills of a certain height. But—we have seen that the summits of hills and mountains have been constantly mounting higher and higher, during a great many ages, as the mass of earth is increased by accession, and its specific gravity, by being petrified or indurated to stone. In time, many of these summits mount above the region of these mists of vapor and the gathering clouds and storms, where, after a while, they must moulder for the want of nourishment, crumble into dust, and be destroyed. They left the waters at an early period, and have carried aloft with them but feeble marks, and indistinct, of their emergence. The geologist is confounded here, as in the depth of the vale where last we saw him. While the earthy base was growing, and elevating the summit, and the operations of the elements were converting it to stone, all nature around was in full activity. Life had been implanted in the vegetable and animal subjects of organization, and nature smiled every where on the works of reproduction. The showers washed down the richness of the hills to form alluvion in the vales below, till by-and-by the scene is changed. Its summit has risen far above the region of clouds, is clothed in eternal frost—and now it is crumbling in decay! Its rocks moulder to dust, and thus restore again to nature, for active operations, that which time had taken and fashioned for itself! Thus, then, after a lapse of other ages, the ‘eternal rocks’ of this mountain-of-mountains, converted to dust, are by degrees restored to the vallies and the regions of vegetation; till the whole, by a change of substance, and a consequent loss of its specific gravity, subsides by its levity, to the level of the meaner hills. Subsides by its levity! Yes. And where once was a mountain, is now a hill, or valley, composed of substances more confounding to the pride of learning and science and philosophy, than even that vale of curiosities, which had once been covered by a sea of salt, then by a lake of fresh water, and is now a vale of rich alluvion, thronged with people, and speckled with numerous cities! The wonders of that place, consisted of the works of nature in composition; here they are displayed in the ap-

pearance of decomposition. Here lie all the constituents of the oldest and hardest rocks, except their water, in strata of rock-dust, with rotten stones, irregular fragments, and innumerable stony nuclei. But, I must not dwell longer here, though I fancy myself expounding the natural history of some places which I have actually examined.

It is not unlikely, but is indeed very probable, that many of those ancient seas may have had, at the same time, several outlets, or streams issuing from them, by which they were first freshened, and then entirely drained. These streams, would, of course, deepen their beds more or less rapidly, according to their quantity, and the velocity of their currents, the nature of the ground, and other circumstances which would variously affect their operations. At one time, the principal issue may have been in one direction, as at the N., at another time at the South; and by the more rapid excavation of one of these streams, the others would all be left quite dry. I only mention this to show how easy and natural it must have been for the operations of nature, in old-time, to have so disposed her works, as to confound the evidences of their progressive order at this remoteness of time. Besides this, there is an operation of large bodies of water, by which, though almost entirely without currents, they excavate the ground and deepen their beds, in a way that seems not to be understood. This effect has been noticed by many, but the cause has not been explained. It is not my purpose to cite instances of this kind; but every body may find them; and I will venture to say they are deserving all of even a Philosopher's attention. I will even commend this subject to his notice, while he is gliding over the waters of our American Lakes. A trip to Canada, by the way of Lake Champlain, is full of opportunity for speculations on this subject, as it is indeed for many others suggested in these remarks.

Suppose now, we take a flight with a Comet, and see what this globe, on which we find ourselves, has once been. I think, that all planetary bodies were once cometary: or that all the Planets, as we call them, were once just such bodies, and exhibited just such appearances in their orbits, as these do which we now call Comets. At first, when issuing from the Sun, from the creating hand of Deity, they are such a mass of unformed matter as that I have described before, and supposed this Earth once to have been. A Comet, therefore, contains all the elements of a future Planet, and a habitable globe. It is at first a soft mass of matter, in a semi-fluid state, thrown off from the sun, the centre of the natural world, round which it revolves in a very excentric, or elliptical orbit, revolving rapidly on its own axis, and exactly in the plane of its orbit. On this line it is forever to move, but is an orbit forever changing, and never, to the end of time, will it make two revolutions precisely in the same track. Planetary bodies, I suppose, have all thus had their origin in the Sun, from which they have been distributed throughout space, at distances determined by the impetus of that force with which they first issued from that luminary. Here is the Creator's power displayed! A Comet hath just been thrown into immeasurable space, unformed, and void, containing all the natural elements

of a Planet, and which in time, is to be furnished for the habitation of man! Lord! in great reverence I bow before thee, and crave thy permission to trace this wanderer, in my mind's eye, and the wonderful works of thy power!

Moving, at first, in a right line, or nearly such, as it recedes from the sun it is inclined to a parabolic curve, or ellipsis, by the operation of that principle of gravity by which it is forever to be retained in its orbit. The tendency of this motion will now forever be to describe a perfect circle;—but no cometary or planetary body can ever attain that form of orbit completely, until the power of its original impetus be entirely lost, though in every revolution it approximates nearer and nearer to that form. This proposition reminds me of a mathematical paradox. Though every revolution approximate this form, yet a perfect circle it can never move in, while every successive revolution is made in the same period of time as the first, describing equal areas in equal times, but in an orbit constantly varying. But, I must not be too minute. This Comet, after revolving for a great many ages around the Sun, and in every revolution extending the transverse diameter of its orbit, while the conjugate is shortened in proportion, has at length lost its tail, taken its station among the Planets, and may soon give immortal renown to the name of some discoverer of a new Planet.

(To be concluded in our next.)

For the American Magazine.

EULOGY ON PATRICK HENRY.

Pronounced at the Annual Commencement of Middlebury College,
August 16, 1815.

GREAT talents, when directed to the attainment of good objects, are justly entitled to our admiration. If in the course of human events, there has been a time, when all the affections of the heart, and all the energies of the soul were enlisted on the side of liberty and virtue—if there has been a time when human exertions were directed to the attainment of an object perfectly just and transcendantly glorious, that time was the period of our revolution. Liberty, persecuted and banished from the eastern world, found a refuge and a home, on our hospitable shores. Americans had sworn to defend and protect her. Great must have been that exertion, and mighty the firmness which was to save her from the grave, inspire her with new life and perpetuate her reign. But great as it must have been, Americans did not shrink from the contest. With the invincible spirit of martyrs, their hearts inflamed with the love of liberty, and their souls fired with a divine enthusiasm in its defence—they boldly stood forth, the generous defenders of all that is dear to man, and of all that renders life a blessing. Against the artful intrigues of cabinets and kings, against the imperial mandates of a haughty tyrant, against the prowess of armies, familiar with scenes of blood, skilled in military science, flushed with victory

and confident of their superior strength—against the expectations of a world already vibrating between hope and despair, Americans had to contend. Long and desperate and bloody was their struggle, but in its final issue, victory was theirs and peace blessed them. The portals of Freedom's temple were opened and our heroes entered. Immortal honors crowned their heads, glory lighted their way and heaven was their goal. With veneration let us enter the temple and survey the assembled talents and patriotism and valor, which redeemed us from the bondage of a worldly oppressor, and elevated us to the enjoyment of our civil and religious privileges—which stamped upon the human character a dignity, before unknown to man, and which proclaimed to the world, with high and resistless emphasis that man was born to be free. There sits the venerable father of his country, robed in light and shining with radiant splendors of eternity. Blessed spirit! A humble mortal will not dare to speak thy eulogy—To celebrate thy peace would become the purity of saints and the tongues of angels. Warren and Montgomery—Hamilton and Greene—ye, too, gallant spirits are there; your reward is in the gratitude and applause of millions. In this grand assembly, we behold numerous others who consecrated their talents to the cause of freedom, and who religiously sacrificed their treasures, their labors and their blood on the altar of their country. Whether in arms, or in council, their talents were exerted alike in the same glorious cause, and their laurels were alike gathered in the field of glory. In our councils, we observe one, whose generous soul burned with the love of liberty and of his country—whose noblest efforts were employed in her cause, but whose name has been too little the subject of eulogy. That man is Patrick Henry. With no claims or titles of nobility, boasting no achievement of ancestors, dead and forgotten, but gifted by God, with talents which adorn, exalt and bless society, he ennobled virtue by his practice of it, and gave majesty to patriotism, by being himself a patriot.

In private life, Mr. Henry was affectionate and conciliating, generous and just; moderating the turbulence of passion, by the mildness and dignity of his counsels;—exerting his influence to promote the peace and enhance the happiness of those around him. He indignantly frowned on vice, but paid to virtue a voluntary homage. His precepts were all directed to the general good, and his example gave to them a diffusive energy and a resistless effect. In the sphere where he moved, he was a star of the first magnitude, imparting light and joy to the whole community. The great and commanding powers of his mind, joined with the goodness of his heart, gave to his example a magnet's force, and all were swift to follow, whom all loved. The indigent and the suffering were blessed by his charities—the profligate and profane were reclaimed by his counsels and advice; all classes were alike visited by his philanthropy and benefitted by his benignity.

But it was as a patriot, a statesman, and an orator, that he stood on an eminence, at once elevated and commanding; displaying the rich treasures of his mighty mind, adorning his country by his transcendent genius, and inspiring her councils by his resistless

eloquence. Above the artful intrigues and petty chicanery of the designing and avaricious demagogue—a stranger to deceit and a foe to dishonor—he marched boldly on, calmly defying the mean and viperous attacks of envy and of malice—and spurning from his presence the trembling coward and the selfish sycophant. Like “a rock in the ocean,” he stood : and stood firm amidst the raging billow of party dissention and the rude blasts of private ambition.

Roused to action by the call of his suffering country, inspired with the hope of her glory—and glowing with the energies of an honorable ambition ;—not that ambition, which with “ overswelling tides of blood and tears dost bear the hero on to glory—while sighs of millions waft the spreading sails,” but that ambition which conscience sanctions, and which heaven approves, he opposed the whole force of his talents to the lawless usurpations of despotic power—and by the thunder of his eloquence, awed into silence its deluded and degraded votaries.

With his copatriots of the revolution, he shared some of the first offices in the government, in the discharge of which, he honored his name and blest his country—that country, which he had encouraged by his eloquence—adorned by his talents and exalted by his patriotism. 'Tis not the chaplet of the warrior, which adorns our patriot's brow—his were not the deeds of the soldier, and the glories of the conqueror. It was not in the embattled field, and amidst the dread artillery of death, that he exerted his powers, and won his splendid trophies. But justly estimating the force of his talents—he wisely and successfully employed them, where duty prompted and his country called. As an *orator*, in our country, he stood pre-eminent. Bold in his conceptions, luminous and persuasive in his argument, and deeply interesting in his manner—his hearers were carried captive, while the benign effects of his exertions proclaimed the rectitude of the cause for which he labored. His was the eloquence of the heart. It sprung from a deep and solemn conviction of the truths which he uttered—it bore the stamp of nature—the loveliness of sincerity and the charm of genius—It burst from a heart inflamed with zeal for the promotion of an object, in itself, noble and sublime. It kindled every feeling of sympathy—it waked every emotion that is sublime—every sensibility that is heavenly.

“Twas a spark of the Deity, bursting to light
Through the darkness of human control,
That flamed from the patriot, burning and bright,
Through the eye of an heavenly soul.”

What though the sculptured brass and towering marble bear not down to future ages the record of his excellence—he found a noble monument of his glory in the approbation of his conscience and the benediction of his God. To him *Christianity* imparted a consolation more lasting than the joys of earth—a hope, which reaches beyond the narrow confines of time—and rests upon the immortal God ;—a crown, compared with which, the titled grandeur and imperial splendors of this world, become as the reckless visions of departed days. With him, religion was not the cold, formal, unfruitful offspring of speculation—but the warm, the active and en-

ergetic impulse of the heart. Infidelity, by the sophisms of its philosophy may gain an extended empire. Before its delusive and fantastic shrine, millions of our race may bend in slavish adoration and sacrifice their souls. But though its triumphs may be great in their extent, they must be short in their duration. With all the fleeting and perishable appendages of this world's vanity—their destruction will be consummated—for against them, the denunciations of divine vengeance are already recorded. But the religion of Jesus Christ is eternal as its author. It seeks not to satisfy and tantalize its votary with the vain hopes and short-lived extacies of a momentary existence. It points him to the skies—and leads to endless happiness and immortal life. It was this religion, which shed its mild glories upon the life, and consecrated the character of our virtuous patriot. Not the coward dread of the world's derision or the infidel's scorn—not all the terrors of persecution, could shake the foundations of his faith, or cool the ardor of his love. His mind dilating with the glorious conceptions of the divine attributes, he seemed absorbed in the effulgence of Deity, lost in the radiant beams of infinite glory.

L.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR—IN your paper on the Albany Lancaster-School I have observed with regret a small error. You mention that I had been frequently employed by Mr. L. in organizing Schools in various parts of Britain. The case was thus; after having learned the plan in Mr. L.'s large School, I was employed by him to superintend and reorganize that School, agreeably to his directions; for in consequence of his absence and the inattention of the young man who had had the charge of it, this had become necessary. With my labours there, Mr. L. was so well satisfied, that he proposed my going to Brentford to endeavour to obtain a place large enough to teach 400 children or more. This was the very citadel of opposition to Mr. L. and his system. It was the residence of Mrs. Trimmer, who had attacked him with the utmost violence; and he wished to put his enemies to silence by "well-doing." A Dr. Johnson there, had premises sufficiently large, and he was most happy to let me have them; but they needed much alteration, and the expence of fitting them up appeared very great; yet all this might have been surmounted, but at last it appeared that it was necessary to obtain the consent of a third person, who held a mortgage on the property, and this could not be obtained. Several other efforts were made in the city and vicinity of London, but the object could not be effected, and having lost in some measure Mr. L.'s good will, by making myself acquainted with Dr. Bell and his system, I was prevailed on by the London Hibernian Society to go to Ireland for them. This I preferred the rather because I had long before determined to go to America.

I am, Sir, most respectfully, &c.

WM. A. TWEED DALE.

H. G. SPAFFORD.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING observed in the fifth number* of your meritorious and instructing Miscellany, a Question requiring a Mathematical Demonstration, and as it has not been heretofore answered, thro' the same channel, I request you will give the following a place in your next number.

Yours, respectfully,

*Page 192.

M. O. SHANNESY.

Albany.

SOLUTION.

As the Sun's upper limb is required to be seen 3 hours before it comes to the horizon of Albany, a ray passing therefrom; when 45 deg. below it, touching the earth's surface and continued, its diameter produced thro' Albany, must inevitably determine the point of observation. *Demonstration.* A line imagined from the earth's centre to the point of contact, must be perpendicular to the Tangent, (Euclid's Propn. Book 3) thence forming an isosceles right angled Δ of which the hypotenuse = the earth's semidiameter + the elevation of the place of observation, and its legs each = the said semidiameter: Whence the following rule is derived (per Euclid's Propositions 32, 6 and 47, Book the first.)

Subtract the earth's semidiameter from the square root of double its square, the remainder will be the required elevation; which, allowing the earth's diameter to be 7970 miles, is equal to 1650 miles 5 furlongs 5 poles 2 feet and 2.67 + inches.

P. S. The Diagram is omitted, as what has been said I presume is sufficient to answer the conditions of the question, and particularly as there might be an inconvenience in preparing a *Cut* for that purpose.

'THE GRAND CANAL.'

Among the little men, those who toil for no party, and who drudge on alone, unheeded by faction, there are none more friendly to the project of uniting the waters of the Hudson with those of Lake Erie, than is the Editor of the American Magazine. One of the earliest, among the advocates for that plan, and in zeal as ardent as any, he has done all that lay in his power, toward promoting the success of an undertaking so important to the interests of the American People. If he has been less ready than some to mount every *hobby*, that has been presented for public approbation under this name, he does not know that he is therefore any the less a friend to the design of a Canal. If any man will point out the means, by which he can render any further aid toward forwarding the completion of this design, he will be thankful for the information: but so long as he sees nothing more that he can do, except it be to join in the intrigues and manœuvres of party, he must be excused. There is too much of this kind of management. 'The Grand Canal,' will

never be forwarded by it. What good can it do? The Editor has freely expressed his opinions, and so he will continue to do, not only on the importance and practicability of this Canal, but on the faults that have marked the labors of some of those to whom the guardianship of the project has been committed. Cast away all political cunning, and let the real friends to this project unite, under its banners, and the people would soon be ready for directing a commencement of the labor of digging;—doing something, toward actually making the Canal. More will be said, on this subject, unless the occasion should soon cease to exist—and it is with difficulty the Editor can persuade himself not to say more at this time. Should he again resume this subject, he will do so with an intention to bestow upon it ample consideration, and to make it the subject of a fair and full exposition, demanding the attention of every citizen.

The Hudson, to Albany, is navigable for large sloops, being about 180 miles from the Atlantic. From Albany to Buffalo, at the outlet of Lake Erie, is about 300 miles. Along this course, which is that for the proposed Canal, stretches the Mohawk, for the distance of about 100 miles. Between Rome and Buffalo, the country is chequered by numerous lakes and streams, has no mountains, the soil is rich and extremely productive, and few countries on the globe present an equal extent of greater fertility, or one through which a Canal may be cut at a less expense. But what is the magnitude of the object, in making a Canal on this route? Let us look at the great Lakes, connected with Lake Erie—the extent and fertility of their shores—and enquire, where are these countries to find a market and a mart for their productions and their trade? Lake Erie, is about 250 miles in length; Detroit River, 28; Lake St. Clair, 90; St. Clair River, 28; Lake Huron, is very broad, and its circumference may be assumed at near 1000 miles; the length of St. Mary's River, 40; L. Superior, 1500; and Lake Michigan, 900 miles. These surfaces present an aggregate of more than 4000 miles; and the navigation, throughout, is only interrupted by a portage of 9 miles, between Lakes Huron and Superior. Lake Ontario, below the cataract of Niagara, is 190 miles in length, and has a medial width of 40 miles. The proposed Canal would course along its southern shore, at distances of 5 to 20 miles, and would certainly gain some portion of its trade. Here, then, is an extent of 300 miles, between the Hudson and Lake Erie, so rich and productive—so much in want of this Canal, that the inhabitants may almost afford to be at the expense of making it;—and beyond that, a country embracing a navigation more than equal to the width of the Ocean that separates America from Europe, which would find the channel of its whole trade through this Canal. Nor is this, even yet, a view of the whole ground. From Lake Michigan, a Canal of a few miles would extend the navigation to the Mississippi, either through L. Winnebago, and the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, or the Illinois. The Mississippi, flows to the Gulph of Mexico; and the Missouri opens a navigation 1300 miles westward. The time may yet come when the teas of China, and the productions of Asia and the Pacific Ocean, shall ascend the Columbia River, and be wafted

down the Missouri, for the supply of the vast regions connected with that navigation. The great Lakes of the West, have numerous rivers, spreading through all the regions that surround them : and these countries are known to abound in mineral treasures, inviting to commerce, while the soil is capable of supplying all that the industry of man can require or seek from it.

Would we inquire, then, where shall the commerce of these Lakes, this World of the West, find an outlet, a channel of communication, presenting an absolute superiority beyond all competition, we say by that very route proposed for this Canal. The people are every where of this opinion : In New-York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, the N. Western Territory, and in Upper Canada, a large portion of the people are looking with anxiety to this undertaking, and would all contribute toward making the Canal, or supporting it when made. Such are the impressions of the Editor—and if we have here converted this great undertaking into a political hobby, the regret should be in proportion to the magnitude of the interest at stake, which is suffering in consequence of delay.

Ed.

For the American Magazine.

From the French, of Mons. Barreau.

'Tonne ! frappe ! il est temps, ren-moi guerre pour guerre ;
J'adore en perissant, la raison qui t'agit ;
Mais clessus quel endroit tombera ton tomere,
Qui ne soit tout convert du sang de Jesus Christ !'

Which is thus rendered by the Translator of Voltaire's Age
of Louis XIV.

'Let lightnings blast, and thunder strike me dead,
Thy vengeance must a justice be esteemed ;
But on what part of this devoted head
Can fall thy ire, which Christ has not redeemed !'

I offer another translation, or rather imitation.

Roll thunders ! lightnings dart :—
'Tis time to give me war for war—
Pierce, conquer my rebellious heart—
I perish, and adore !

But ere thy red-hot wrath strikes home,
Or blasts me with its glare,
Let me be covered by the blood of Christ ;—
I fly for shelter there.

J. S.



SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF USEFUL ARTS.

Officers of the Society for 1816.

Simeon De Witt, *President*.John Tayler, *1st Vice President*.Stephen Van Rensselaer, *2d Vice President*.James Low, *Recording Secretary*.John W. Francis, *Southern District*,Benjamin Allen, *Middle*, do.Josiah Noyes, *Western*, do.G. W. Van Schaick, *Eastern*, do.Isaac Hutton, *Treasurer*.John M. Bradford, *Senior Counsellor*.

Philip S. Van Rensselaer,

Edmund C. Genet,

John Stearns,

Horatio Gates Spafford,

Jonathan Eights,

T. Romeyn Beck,

Jacob Green,

James Stevenson,

Corresponding
Secretaries.

Counsellors.

For the American Magazine.

Rule for the Equation of Payments.

MULTIPLY the first payment by the rate of interest, and the second by the rate of discount. Multiply the second product by the time between the payments, and divide this product by the sum of the first and second products. The quotient will give the equated time, from the first payment.

If there be more than two payments, take the equated time of the first and second, and the third payment, for a new calculation.

PEDAGOGUS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Salinus, has been mislaid, or he would have appeared long since. Is it now too late? Perhaps he may have something to add. The subject is of high importance. *Philologus* is angry, and he has good cause.—His Paper was printed during the sickness of the Editor;—and P. must confess he writes in a very blind hand. Some of the most material errors will be noted in an Errata.

For omissions, in not giving insertion to the numerous favors of our Correspondents, which might demand an apology, we have only to observe that the Printer assures us he has at least Copy for six Nos. in advance. Some, must lie over—and we have constantly aimed, in making our selections, to be governed by strict justice, as well in relation to the favors of our Correspondents, as to the interests of our Patrons and Readers.

We would willingly publish the long Essay of S., on *Manufactures*, on which he seems to have bestowed a good deal of labor, were it not that we have not 30 pages to spare. His opinions, on the policy of this business, though totally different from our own, do not, in the least degree, diminish our willingness to give him publicity. Free and full discussion of all important measures, is one leading object of this Magazine, and it is this which has prevailed with us to insert some Essays of a greater length than we should otherwise have preferred. Young, on the same subject, is a valuable Paper, and so brief that we shall endeavor to find room for his remarks, as just as they are important and con-

Ed.



THE
AMERICAN MAGAZINE,
A MONTHLY MISCELLANY,

• CONDUCTED BY

HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD, A. M. F. A. A.

Author of a Geography of the United States, a Gazetteer of the State of New-York, &c.:—a Member of the New-York Historical Society, and one of the Counsellors of the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts:—a Member of the American Antiquarian Society, and of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, Massachusetts.

No. 12.

MAY, 1816.

Vol. I.

For the American Magazine.

THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

THIS celebrated Cataract has been often described;—and these descriptions, however minute and well written are of little interest, because it is impossible for mere words to convey any adequate idea of scenery so complex in its character, and so stupendous. The annexed Plate, is one of the best efforts that I have seen toward presenting A GENERAL VIEW. It is taken from the rear of the *Table Rock*, on the British side; and the few notes that I add, are merely designed to aid the Reader's memory and conception while examining this picture.

It will be recollected that the Niagara River is here about 3 quarters of a mile wide, and that the Observer is elevated about 100 feet above the level of the Table Rock. The form of the Fall is an irregular curve, of rather more than half of a circle of 3 quarters of a mile in diameter. In the fore-ground, is the American shore, where the height of the Cataract is 164 feet. Goat Island, just at the head of this precipice, is seen to divide the waters, by a space of about 330 yards. On the left of this Island, is a rocky mass of perhaps 20 yards. With the exception of these breaks, the stream of water is continuous, and the cataract unbroken. By far the greatest portion of the water descends the great *Horse-Shoe Fall*, as it is called, shewn in perspective, between Goat Island and the British shore. The height of the cataract is here 150 feet;—and the cloud of ascending spray, with the rainbow, are no imaginary decorations, but faithful delineations from nature. A very faint idea of the magnitude and sublimity of this scenery, is all that can be conveyed by the pen and the pencil. Most persons have admired the beauties of natural cascades, in little brooks, till their ideas of beauty and the sublime of natural scenery, are regulated by a certain scale of magnitudes, so inferior to that of Niagara, that its wonders present, at the first view, a group of vast and strong-featured deformity. It requires some days of observation, and study, to embrace a whole view, and to reconcile the magnitude of its features, with our conceptions of any thing like that beauty which we still seek in grandeur and sublimity. A deep and rapid river, of a mile in width, plunging, at one leap, down a precipice of 150 feet, is in-

deed a phenomenon in the natural world. Nor is it any wonder that the imagination is bewildered, while the first effect, on persons of taste, partakes too largely of the wonderful to be pleasing. But, to enjoy all this—these painfully-pleasing sensations, persons must examine for themselves, and indulge their own reflections on the spot. To say more would be a useless waste of time—and it was impossible to say less.

May, 1816.

VOLNEY.

Culture of the Sugar Cane, in Georgia.

For the following Letter, I am indebted to the politeness of John W. Devereux, Post-Master at Milledgeville, Ga., of whom I made some enquiries, concerning the culture of this invaluable Plant, and the success attending it. The Plantation of Col. McCormick, is on the Oconee, about 50 miles below Milledgeville, the Capital of Georgia.

Ed.

Letter of Col. McCormick.

Dear sir—

Rose Vale, May 9, 1816.

THE cultivation of the Cane, differs so little in form from that of the Maize, that a circumstantial detail would be tedious and unnecessary. I have merely opened a furrow with the common plough, laid in the cuttings of the plant about one foot apart, so placed that the eyes will lie horizontally; and taking care that the covering of earth shall be in proportion to the state of the ground and the season of the year. My opinion is that a covering of 4 inches is generally sufficient, at any time from Nov. to March. The ploughing can only be effected one way, as cross ploughing would disturb the cuttings laid in the furrow. The dressings must keep the ground buoyant and light and free from weeds. When the young shoots begin to appear, it is important to add a little fresh light mold around the roots—but this itself, is what is equally desirable in the cultivation of Maize. I have just done ploughing and molding or dressing my crop of this year, from which I expect to prepare Sugar and Molasses for the market. After the Cane is grown, the processes are so well described by Bryan Edwards, Dupon, and other West India Planters and writers, and in so many hands, that I need not describe them to you. The soil, in our climate, that seems best adapted for Cane, is the lightest and richest mold. As respects the yield of sugar, I hardly know yet if the richest soil be so desirable:—but I know that the plant has the greatest luxuriance on this, and therefore suppose the yield of sugar will be in proportion. Our pine lands, I find, are well adapted for Cane; and when manured, will produce from 8 to 1200 lbs. of Sugar to the acre, besides Molasses. As to the climate, where the Sugar Cane may be expected to succeed—I can only say that it has borne its removal from the torrid zone, with marks, not merely of resignation, but of entire content. I am in N. latitude 32 deg. 40 min. How much further it will bear to go N., remains to be seen on trial: my own opinion is that it will certainly not succeed beyond lat. 35, at present. It seems to me better adapted for success on the sea coast, than in situations more elevated and inland. It will not, I

hope, be deemed presumptive in me, after the experience I have had, to predict, that it will be found to answer the most sanguine expectations of our Planters. The Oconee, Ocmulgee, and Alamaha rivers, are happily located for extending this cultivation along their shores; and it cannot be doubted that these circumstances may soon place the State of Georgia, in point of wealth, beyond any of the Atlantic States. The Cane plant is more hardy, even now, than Cotton or Maize:—as a frost that will kill the former, and cut down the latter quite to the ground, in its infant state, does little or no injury to Cane. To these observations I would add, but that the Post is waiting. If you desire, I will cheerfully give every additional information that may result from my own practise and experience in this business. In haste, very respectfully, your friend,
DAVID McCORMICK.

THOUGHTS, ON PHILOSOPHICAL SCIENCE, ON CREATION, AND
THE ORDER AND CONSTITUTION OF NATURE.

(Concluded from page 401.)

But the Tail of the Comet?

Here are two glass bowls, of the same form and dimensions, each containing 4 quarts of water. The water in the one is perfectly clear;—but that in the other is thickened with clay, and a variety of metallic matter, in very minute particles. The several contents of each being accurately weighed, I place them side by side, in the direct rays of the sun. The one containing clay, &c. in a kind of turbid, muddy mixture, or semi-fluid state, I call No. 1, and its contents are warmed to a much higher temperature, and evaporated much faster than the water in No. 2. With a little stirring, the earthy deposit will become quite dry, long before the water in No. 2 is exhausted: And on weighing this deposit, it has sustained a considerable loss. Hence I conclude, that, the evaporation being so rapid, this loss is occasioned by the ascent of some of those particles, with the *mist of vapor*, raised by evaporation into the atmosphere.

Now—light is only made visible to our eyes—or—the matter of light only becomes light, by being transmitted, or acted upon in media capable of refraction. Without this, it is no more light, absolutely, than the pulsations of air are sound or noise, without the fine contrivance of the ear for perceiving the effect of these pulsations. Heat, derived from the rays of the Sun, is produced in the same way as light—but more of this by-and-by. The solution of water in air, constituting its humidity, is the principal cause of the power of refraction, existing in the atmosphere: but this refractive power is also increased by the suspension of heterogeneous particles in the air, and, in a most splendid manner, by the addition of mineral gases. So soon therefore, as the Solar rays have caused evaporation from this Comet, so soon has the formation of an atmosphere commenced;—and of just such an atmosphere as is calculated to possess the highest refractive powers. Well—the Comet has an atmosphere, and now it shows a tail of light, which it could not have done before. If it revolve in the plane of its orbit, by-and-by

it will lose this tail, and may, in certain positions, at certain distances, exhibit the phenomena of a ring, or of several concentric rings, surrounding it as a planet !

This glass tumbler holds a quart, and is filled with clear water. Its temperature is low, in order that it may globate a drop of this balsam of fir, and suspend it near the surface. If I place the candle in the plane of the horizon of this little globe, you may see what a beautiful tail of light is formed on the side opposite to the light. A Comet's tail, in a little tumbler of water ! Yes, indeed, and a very pretty one it is ;—a perfect miniature ! Suspend this globe of glass in the same way, and you may see how its refractive powers act to produce the same effect. Here is another globe, of the same dimensions and materials, but its inner surface is rendered opaque by a coating of adhesive wax. The thickness of the glass is equal to one 46th part of the semi-diameter of the globe ;—and yet you see this forms a tail of light exactly like those in the preceding experiments !

The atmosphere of a Comet is a great Lens, by which the rays of light are refracted to a convergence, and this occasions the luminous appearance which we denominate the Comet's Tail. Nor is this effect in any way lessened by the opacity of the centre, or the opaque body of the comet. No planetary body, at the distance of the nearest of the primary planets, would ever be visible to us if it had not an atmosphere. Had it the excessively humid and heterogeneous atmosphere of a comet, like that it would project a tail, which would, of course, be principally observable in the focus of its great lens, where the converging rays act on each other. This I suppose to be the true explanation of the phenomena of Comets, of which there probably may be many millions, belonging to the Solar System, not yet seen by any inhabitant of this Earth. There have been seen, since men began to think they knew something about astronomy, many hundred Comets. Now, I do not suppose that, however excentric their orbits, or long their periodic revolutions, any Comet ever travelled, in its aphelion, beyond the system of that Sun round which it revolved. It must follow, then, that the planet Herschell, is not placed at the remotest bounds of the system of our Sun. The period of Herschell is about 83 1-2 years, and that of the great Comet which is expected in 1833-4, about 75 1-2 years. This, then, must extend its aphelion far beyond the orbit of Herschell, which planet is more than 1,800,000,000 miles distant from the Sun. But these facts are only introduced in order to revive a distinct idea of the immensity of space ;—and at the same time it may be well to remember that the period of one other Comet is pretty well ascertained to be 575 years ! May there not be many millions of planets yet undiscovered ? I suppose there is but one Sun, or source of natural light. And when we reflect on this immensity of space, with the comparative weakness of reflected light, we must be aware, that, though there may be millions of planetary bodies between us and the Sun, yet that we can only discern them, from this earth, when within distances comparatively very small. How far, or to what extent, their transit directly over the disk of the

Sun, may extend the ability of our vision, may probably be much better known when we know more about the nature of light, and of that glorious and effulgent luminary, to which we are indebted for it. Were the Sun a body of fire; and were the effect of light produced by emission, as some suppose, I much doubt if the transit of Mercury or Venus could ever be seen from this Earth.

It has been said that a Comet, in the time of Sir Isaac Newton, passed so near the Sun, that its heat was calculated by him at 3000 times that of red-hot iron, and that it would be 200 years in cooling! This hypothesis is founded on the opinion that the heat of the Sun diminishes exactly in proportion as we recede from that luminary. My opinion is, that the power of the Sun is precisely the same wherever its rays extend. Whatever name we give to the matter of heat—whether we call it caloric, or any thing else, or whatever ideas we may entertain concerning the identity of heat and light; it is yet pretty certain that the light of the Sun fills all space. It must therefore be radiated from the Sun, and be capable of minute subdivision, even to infinity. Light always moves in right-lines, or somehow acts in right-lines, (and how, is not probably well understood,) diverging infinitely, in all directions, to pervade all space. We know that refraction is produced by the interposition of different media; and that, according to what we well know, the effect of an atmosphere is to converge the Solar rays: because, there is always presented toward the Sun, a section of the planets' atmosphere.—The common lens, shows us the power of this convergence; and it also shows, if attentively considered, that the effects which follow its action, depend not so much on the accumulation of many rays, as on the collision of ray with ray, caused by the interposition of the lens. The form of this instrument, determines alike its focal distance and its power. Iron may be melted thus, by using a lens, well formed, of only a few inches in diameter; and the effect is produced by the convergence of the Solar rays, which only act on each other after having passed both surfaces of the glass. Ice would do just as well as glass for this experiment, if the lens were as perfectly formed. Caloric is that substance which we call both heat and light.—It is radiated equally in all directions, and when perfectly pure, is perfectly colorless. What we call the radiation of light, is but a natural effort to equalize the distribution, on the same principles, precisely, as what we call the Electric fluid, acts, to keep up an equilibrium. Substances charged with a greater portion of caloric than what belongs to them, according to the constitution of things, yield the excess to other bodies: like the electric fluid, too, this excess is yielded more readily to some substances than to others, according to the nature of their affinities. Thus we prove that all the matter of light or heat is radiant, even to apparent exhaustion. If we carry a hot ball into a cool air, the excess of its caloric is rapidly conveyed away by radiation, until the ball has acquired the temperature of the air;—and while the caloric is thus radiated, this same ball is a luminous object, exactly in proportion to the intensity of its heat. Had it been plunged into water, of the same temperature, its emission or radiation of caloric would have been much more rapid;

but the effects in every other respect would have been the same. I have often amused myself with experiments to prove these conclusions: and I have even seen that the intensity of the light is in exact proportion to this rapidity of radiation. An iron ball, far below a red-heat, thrown into a bucket of water, will handsomely illuminate its contents: while another of the same size and intensity of heat, left in the air, cools but slowly, and exhibits no radiation visible to my eyes. I am fully satisfied that the heat of every warm blooded animal, is sufficient to make its own body a luminous object, to the eyes of some other animal. The Cat, has an eye formed for its avocation of seeking its prey in the dark; and the mouse, familiar examples to every body, is a warm blooded animal. I have carefully experimented with these animals. In a dark cellar during the darkest hours of night, I have confined a cat in a closet;—after warming a leaden image, in the shape of a mouse, to the temperature of the body of that animal, I have opened the closet door by a long string, and in an instant, though at a distance of 28 feet, I have heard the cat seize her prey. When the same image is cold, she either does not find it at all, or only after a long time, and then, probably, by chance. The swallow, at certain seasons of the year, has a very high temperature of body; and the owl, whose eye, like that of the cat, is formed for similar labors, will see the swallow in the darkest places, at distances of several feet. The swallow, in winter, lies torpid and cold; and the same owl could not then discover its victim. This torpidity of certain animals, is caused solely by the low temperatures of their bodies, and the consequent sluggardness of their blood and juices. In this state, as in every other, the supply of air necessary to sustain life, is in exact proportion to the circulation of their blood: if the heart be still, so may the lungs be, or those organs of respiration which perform their functions. But this is wandering, casually, from my more immediate object.

Some persons have supposed that combustion, by decomposing combustible substances, somehow renders light, or, in other words, caloric, more luminous than the same intensity of heat would be without combustion. Caloric, in my opinion, only exhibits the effect that we call light, when in an active state. A blaze is always a red heat, and red heat is luminous to human eyes, whether it exhibit the appearance of blaze or flame or not. It is impossible to produce this blaze, but by decomposition; and then, as the heat is more intense, so also is the light. Blaze, is the emission of new compounds, from the effect of combustion: and you cannot make one but what is capable of heating, even iron, to a red heat, though every one has by no means the same intensity. But—whatever the intensity of the heat, whether accompanied by the emission of visible flame or not, the light which it is capable of affording, is always in proportion to this intensity. The process of charring wood, in large pits for Iron works, affords a ready illustration. The wood, in this process, is to be converted to a coal, to a carbonated wood, by a slow, smothered heat. The surface of the pit has a covering of earth, while the fire is working slowly through the mass to expel the aqueous particles, and convert the wood to a coal. A great

deal of smoke, or rather steam, rises through the covering of earth; and this is always luminous exactly in proportion to the intensity of its heat. In dark, rainy, windy nights, this exhibition is well worth the trouble of even a very uncomfortable ride of some miles. Should the Collier, or the man attending the pit, stop to speculate as I am doing, some one of these spots, that first become luminous to his eyes, would by-and-by burst out in what we call actual flame, which is only an emission of gaseous vapors, more intensely hot than his process will admit: for his wood would then be converted to ashes instead of coal. But having conducted my readers from the cellar to the woods, in search of illustrations, we will now return to the Steam Boats, with which every body is well pleased. The steam that issues from this engine, is always luminous in proportion to its intensity of heat.

Combustion disengages latent, or inactive caloric, as well that of the combustible substance on which it feeds, as that of the air: but the quantity given out, or in other words, the intensity and effect of this quantity, depends entirely on the intensity of the heat. I have been very gravely told, that, decomposing any substance by fire, the manner of doing it was of no importance, because the heat, or the quantity of caloric, is always the same from the same substance. This is absurd, as it is easy to prove, though it is a doctrine of the popular philosophy of the day. Here are two sheets of paper, both of the same kind and weight, and here is a sheet-iron stove. Hold your hand on it, while I burn one sheet, rolled up thus in a kind of ball, by pressing it in my hand. It is done in one minute. Now try it while I burn the other sheet, torn into slips. The difference is more than 2 to 1, though the same time is employed in both cases, and the paper entirely reduced to ashes. Were the object to determine the quantity of light, instead of heat, the radiation must not be prevented by the iron, which absorbs the caloric, and only gives it out at a temperature that is not luminous to human eyes.

I suppose that what we call heat, is solely produced by the action of caloric on itself; and this also causes the effect that we denominate light. Combustion is the means we employ to produce this action; but I venture to predict, that, at some time or other, the means will be found out to produce permanent lights, without the aid of combustion.

Turning again to a contemplation of the solar system, let us carry with us the remembrance that its vast bodies are furnished with light solely by the power of refraction. Thus the Comets and Planets are supplied with light, and their atmospheres illuminated, while the immense regions of space around them are involved in utter darkness. If there be any such thing as an entire vacuum in space, though all the rays of the Sun were transmitted through it, yet it has no light forever. Wherever the Planets roll, they mark an illumined way of borrowed light.

I have amused myself with an experiment, which may amuse the reader, while it will serve to illustrate some of the positions I have assumed. A room of 30 feet in length, and 18 in width, divided into 3 equal parts, by two partition walls, and made entirely dark, need not

alarm my reader, after having so far adventured with me before. In the middle room I place an oven-stove, with a cannon ball in the oven, attached to a wire, which reaches to No. 1, one of the rooms on the outside: By the side of the stove, a bucket of water, covered with several thicknesses of dry paper. The stove room, I call No. 2, and the remaining room No. 3. The temperature of the air is the same in each. In No. 1, by burning lamps, I produce a brilliant light; and so place several mirrors as to concentrate it, with intense effect, on the wall toward No. 2. Here I make a small aperture, as I do in the wall of No. 3, and cover them with window glass. The light is now thrown through Nos. 2 and 3, and lights on the wall of the latter room, opposite to the mirrors in No. 1. The object is to determine the effect of refraction, in producing light. In No. 1, I have a large glazed aperture, which enables me to look all over No. 2. While the temperature, and the composition of the air, is the same in each room, there is little difference in the intensity of the light in each. A person may see to read fine print. I now place a fire in No. 2, and keep the stove nearly red-hot; for some time, with every aperture closed, when I again light up my lamps. The air has now become highly rarefied in No. 2, and so far deprived of its humidity that a cat dies in it in little more than 8 minutes and a half. Some mice, in a wire-trap, live 7, and 9 minutes. The light in No. 1, is brilliant, and in No. 3, as before; but No. 2 is almost totally dark—and scarcely can any light be seen, but on the glass at the apertures. I now pull the wire, which plunges the ball through the paper covering into the bucket of water, and in an instant, on the ascending curls of steam, or ‘mists of vapor,’ I see a stream of light that soon illumines the whole room! After some little time, I have thought No. 2 better lighted than No. 3.—Among all my speculations and experiments, none ever amused and instructed me more than this. I tried the effect of placing a mirror;—then white, and then blackened paper, on the wall of No. 3, where the light fell, and I was astonished at the difference of effect, though I had supposed it must be considerable.

While I now sit musing on these things, it occurs to me that this is probably the last opportunity I may ever have for acknowledging how much satisfaction I have enjoyed in such kind of pursuits. I have paid little, perhaps less attention than I ought, to the accumulation of money. Were I rich, instead of being poor in my old age, I might trouble the world with a huge book, instead of this skeleton kind of strange Essay; and so I suppose this frank acknowledgement of poverty will excite the less regret. A little farm, which I might have purchased for the money laid out upon a very few of some of my experiments, would be worth more to me now, perhaps, than all that I have gained from them;—and I mention this only as a word of precaution to others. I cannot complain of divine Providence, nor do I complain of the world. If I have not done so much good as I might, I console myself with a hope that I have yet done some, and that I have done little harm. I still see at my side the companion of my youth, and those around me who have never ceased to regard me with kind partiality and affection:

and we have never yet known the want of any of the absolute necessities of life, nor have we tasted but very few of its luxuries. If I have been misled by the illusions of vanity, ambition, or hope, it was only when I suffered myself to be persuaded that, by-and-by, I should be capable of doing a good deal of good. The reader may laugh at me—but if I have, like most others, been misled by vanity, there is some merit in confessing my error; and while he will not know who he is laughing at, let him take care that it be not at himself.

When I look around on the works of creation, on the operations of nature, and its endless varieties and forms and modes—its works of composition and decomposition, I can but think, that, under the influence of such persuasions and views as I have indicated in these sketches, the whole appears more harmonious and consistent, than by the aid of any thing, or all, that I had learnt from others. The natural world had long presented a kind of chaotic mass of wonders to my view: now, it all seems simple harmony. I had studied natural philosophy, in the school of infidelity: I have long since studied it in that of revealed religion—and have found it, to my mind, a study every way worthy of its brighter glories, and in harmony with its doctrines. The views that I have derived from it, may be sometimes new, but they are always consolatory. If the higher pursuits of literature were less likely to lead the young mind into infidelity, they would be far less objectionable. Whatever may have a tendency to remove this objection, may well command our serious attention.

The knowledge of nature, or what may be termed the physical sciences, taught in our schools, want simplifying, to make this knowledge appear more obvious and rational according to the dictates of sound reason. Old systems are ever overloaded with mystery:—for these mysteries are the ornaments of Profession, with which the teachers bedeck their Professional Robes:—and the remark holds good, whether applied to Literature, Science, Law, Politics, Philosophy, Ethics or Religion. It is this rubbish of the dress of system, that renders learning far less pleasing than it otherwise would be: this mass of mysterious accumulation and ornament, that obscures the perception of original truths, and finally renders learning a source of about as much falsehood as truth.

But, I must leave these reflections, and turn again to a contemplation of the Solar System. I need not here repeat, that, to my mind, this System embraces all created things, and the entire expanse of all space. 'The Heaven and the Earth,' and 'the Heaven of Heavens,' are all, as I humbly conceive, included within the bounds of this Solar System, to which we again turn our contemplations. The thought is awful; and in a frame of mind that would shame the conceits of vanity, let us again survey the order of creation, and the operations of nature. Tracing the Comet in its course;—reasoning as well as I can reason, from one thing to another;—from what I see, to what I believe, and still I find in these views, much to encourage an ardent desire for knowledge, and to inspire hope. To my mind, guided by these views, I can discern

in nature a much more consistent and harmonious whole, than when guided by those that I found in the books. If, with these views of the order of nature, in organization, I examine the loftiest mountains, the hills, the vallies, and fields—their alluvion, and water-courses,—with the shores and fountains of the great deep, I find confirmation every where. If I examine the positions of mountains, with their strata and component parts; or the hills and their strata, and probable relationship to those of the mountains, I am absolutely lost in wonder and amazement. Perhaps no other person may fully, at once, embrace my opinions on these subjects:—but as I suppose they will prove to many readers, like certain persons I have known, who improve by nearer acquaintance, I venture to anticipate the pleasure of finding some, by-and-by, who will embrace and enjoy them in their full extent. How often, in my lonely walks, have I desired this pleasure! To gain, at first, the summit of some lofty mountain;—wind down its sides, and see and study as we go:—and gain the valley; and there to ponder and expatiate! The fields are nature's books; he who would learn her works, must often visit them. Wherever I go, among the works of nature, I see, constantly, enough to engage all my attention. The learned Professor, who happens to be blest with good sense, should often conduct his Pupils abroad, viewing the works of nature on her own great scale. If his object be the science of Botany, the fields are furnished for instruction: would he teach any of the sciences, he may there find subjects for illustration and remark. But, above all, is Astronomy the object, let the Heavens at midnight, be his orrery;—and may he thus drink of the waters of life, at the spring of devotion! Among the innumerable objects that engage my attention, while surveying the works of nature, I find many appearances and modes that I cannot explain. If, now, I turn to the Philosophers for explanation, they refer me to the Books, which abound in theories, contradictory and wild: so that the more closely I adhere to my guide, the more am I bewildered with doubts. But if, leaving the Philosophers, I enquire of the Geologist, the Botanist, the Chemist, or any of the many thousands ever ready to *teach*, they all point to their books, which I am tired of consulting. Besides this; there are so many systems, in these, and so many changes from old to new, that, like the Heathen surrounded by Missionaries of scholastic theology, it is rare if I do not blunder on the *false* system, instead of the *true*! Such are some of the eternally discordant materials on which learning reposes, and such its predicaments. Let not this be said, however, to the reproach of Him who gave us the desires of knowledge. Men are naturally indolent, and few will submit to the labor of seeking for facts. Idle men, fond of study, incur learning with too much theory, while practical and industrious persons, rarely submit to the tedious, unprofitable, and unavailing toil of Authorship. It thus happens to systems of learning, that when once established, they rarely participate in the benefits of experience, or improve by age. I have often thought that there is, by far, too much of mere mechanism, in the literature of this age. We read a great deal, and hear lectures.

but study little, and meditate still less, even on what we may have read, or heard, or studied. A life of learning or literature, is rarely a life of meditation. Would our Professors oftener accompany their Pupils to the fields, or to a survey of nature in her various operations, and to the actual operations of the arts, we should mix much more of knowledge with our learning. In the physical sciences, we should probably have, also, much less to unlearn in our old age.

Concerning Colors, I here introduce a remark, though rather out of place. I am strongly inclined to a belief that all elementary matter is perfectly colorless, like caloric, and I have a great many reasons for this belief. Colors, then, of every kind, have resulted from the operations of nature, since the creation, and from the new compounds and modes of matter. Should I live a few years longer, it is my intention to say more on this subject, as well as on the most of those, adverted to, cursorily, in this Paper. Nay, I doubt if, even now, any substance in nature, made perfectly pure, has any thing of color in it. Colors are all compounds, and a large portion of compounds have color. I have often been amazed to see speculative philosophy puzzling its brain to account for the general Deluge, by natural causes. This, I think, like the doctrine of the Trinity, in theology, is dangerous ground to tread on. Why should we presume to inquire into the means by which Deity works by miracles! I dare not even wish to attempt this. Probably there may yet exist, on this globe, certain evidences of that event, which has caused many and great derangements in the natural, antediluvian order of things. I suppose it is so;—but it is not in the power of the mind of man to scan all things. With a limitation of his powers, there is undoubtedly a field of exertion prescribed for him, beyond which as he cannot, so he certainly ought not to go, nor even to desire it.

I have thought that the inclination of the axis of a planetary body, may be a natural and necessary consequence of its compound motions, or its diurnal and annual revolutions: and that the angle of this inclination is of course subject to variation. After the above observations, this remark may, by some, be thought ill-timed, and some may even think it useless speculation, or even profane. I do not think so. Whatever unfolds to our view the works of Deity, and the operations of nature, displaying His wisdom, perfections, and power, is calculated to exalt our thoughts, and excite our adoration and praise. Were it not so, the entire objects of Natural Philosophy, would be profane. In my opinion, no natural desire or passion of the human mind is implanted in vain:—and none is more universal than that thirst for knowledge from which springs a love of the study of nature. Nay—in my opinion there is no study more useful than this;—nor none so well calculated to raise our thoughts, and fix our meditations and our hopes upon the eternal Jehovah.

In pursuit of the knowledge of Philosophy, there is, undoubtedly, as I have before said, a limit to investigation, as there is to mind; and no good man should ever aspire to go beyond these bounds. Sup-

pose that, some ages hence, when the gradually advancing progress of truth may sanction, by popular favor, the doctrines of these skeleton views, and discover, that they form essential features of the system of philosophical science;—no one would then think I had ventured too far. Were I now to offer a conjecture that, though a Comet pass through the body of the Sun, it would be in no danger from the heat of that luminary, the conjecture might be viewed as wild, or even profane: and yet this inference may very soon be recognized in the doctrines of the schools. I should deem it no hardship, if, by permission of the Deity, I were even now thus journeying;—or, I should certainly have no apprehensions of fear, from the Sun's heat, though the Comet's course were directly through the Sun. Nor is this a fool-hardy saying of mine:—I dare not sport with profanation. I cannot know but this same Sun, may be the Heaven of my Christian hope: nor do I know that it is in any wise necessary that I should know. But if my reason be any guide in judging of the nature of heat and light, whatever may constitute the matter or body of the Sun, I feel warranted in a belief that it is in no danger of being exhausted by its emission of light. Some persons, supposing the Sun a huge body of fire, constantly requiring a supply of fuel, have expressed many fears lest it should not be duly supplied! And, on the whole, I think the speculations of writers on these subjects, have, to say the least of them, been quite as wild as mine, and as bold. Comets have been supposed the vast bodies designed to carry fuel to the Sun! Some persons have even pretended to have discovered vast openings or spaces on the Sun's disk, which they supposed made by the falling in of these Comets! If the Sun is not mere Caloric, I know not what else to suppose it:—and I feel very confident in my belief that I have assigned the true explanation of the phenomena of the Comet's tail.

The Heaven, which was shown to St. John the Revelator, “had no need of the Sun, neither of the Moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did enlighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.” If the Sun be not that Heaven, it is at least that natural emblem by which the Deity hath prefigured himself to our perceptions, and toward which he hath condescended to direct our natural eyes. Well may that source of visible light to the natural world, which goeth not out by day or by night forever, prefigure to the eye of faith, the excellency of that light which illumines Heaven, the ultimate object of the Christian's, and the Pagan's hopes.

It has often occurred to me, while looking at the Sun, that of all the objects of creation, visible to our perceptions, none present subjects for meditation so awful, or so well calculated to enlarge our conceptions of the Creator. The little that we can judge of its composition or matter, is built on conjectures, founded on what we may suppose we know of its effects, in producing light and heat. I have even permitted myself, sometimes, to doubt, if every attempt to comprehend its nature and phenomena, were not profane. Often and long have I thus hesitated—and again have mused upon it, and attempted to reason. The Sun returns daily, and again I muse. But what is the Sun composed of? Is it caloric only, and its mag-

nitude indefinite, like the atmosphere of a planet? I suppose so—and that such is the effect of its light, that its apparent diameter is not diminished by distance, or the remoteness of the place of observation. Nay—from the utmost distance of space, I would suppose its apparant diameter increased, rather than diminished! Some of the reasons on which I found this conjecture, are scattered along in my previous remarks, and I have not time, now, to add any more. When viewing the Spots that sometimes appear on the disk of the Sun, I inquire, with eagerness, What can these be? Are they not cometary, or planetary bodies, of which there may be many millions yet unseen by any inhabitant of this earth, except when transiting the body of the Sun?—or, perhaps, masses of created matter, designed by Deity to become such bodies? Is it irrational to suppose that other planets have been added to the solar system, since the creation of this which we inhabit? I think not. And I have permitted myself to believe that new comets, designed to become new planets, may be even yet thrown, by the creative power of the Almighty, into that space which his boundless power has formed—and that they always first issue from the Sun. When viewing some of these spots, I can but imagine that their different shades of color or light, bear a striking analogy with what we might suppose the appearance of land and water, at such immense distances, and so situated as respects the Sun. I have long and anxiously waited for an opportunity to observe the transit of some of the largest of these spots, or apparent clusters, at the moment of leaving the point of apparent contact; and I have ventured to conjecture that, sooner or later, such an opportunity might throw much new light on astronomical science. Certain it is that these spots do not all hold the same apparent course over the disk of the Sun. This fact rather tends to confirm me in my belief that they are always occasioned by masses of matter;—and that these masses are vastly more numerous than our doctrines of the Solar System would lead us to suppose.

But—I must close these remarks, in which I have freely wandered over a good deal of ground, though I have not yet said all that I meant to say. My time, however, is getting short, and other cares demand all my attention. Should the few remaining years, which I can even hope to live, afford me some hours of leisure, I may again take up my pen; for I have yet much to say on these subjects. The volume of nature is every where open before us;—let us look into it. The Creator is seen in his Works;—let us seek Him, through their agency. A world of wonders surrounds us. From contemplating the world of matter, our minds may be drawn to, and prepared for, a due contemplation on the world of Spirits: From the Sun of Nature, to the Sun of Grace, the Sun of Righteousness. The one is the only source of light to the natural world—the other to that which is unseen.

FRANKLIN.

Feb. 18, 1816.

Hints on the benefits of Ingrafting Fruit Trees.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR,

It may not be generally known to your readers, that the propagation of Fruit by Ingrafting, or Innoculation, has a tendency to meliorate the quality of the fruit in proportion to the number of crosses of the juices, and according to the relative kinds and qualities of the juices, so blended in the plant. I have lately seen certain and direct evidences of the correctness of this position, in some conclusive experiments, and I have for many years conformed to a practise indicated by considerations growing out of it. In every instance that has fallen under my observation, the crossing of kinds and varieties by ingrafting, has been productive of evident melioration, or improvement, in the quality of the fruit. But there is one fact, connected with this subject, so strikingly important, as to demand the earliest consideration. The common Thorn Apple, is known to be indigenous in all the Northern and Eastern section of the United States. This is a hardy shrub, capable of being propagated in every variety of soil—and, so far as I can judge by what I have seen, flourishes equally well in every climate found in these states. This shrub, by frequent ingraftings and crosses, is capable of affording Apples of many varieties, and of the choicest qualities. By inserting the branches, or the buds, from one limb into another; and then ingrafting from the growth or the buds furnished by this stock, into other parts of the same stock, or into the limbs and branches of the original growth, Apples are produced, fully equal to any of our best kinds, and that within a very few years. In other words, by care, and cultivation, the Thorn bush is converted into an Apple tree, and supplies, from the resources of one single parent stock, a great variety of fruit. This is a singular fact, and it well merits a good deal of attention. I suspect this same shrub, is the source from which all our varieties of Apples are derived: how, at first, or by what means the melioration commenced, it is not my present purpose to inquire. Certain of the facts I have stated, I leave to others the task of explaining causes, and of conjecturing about what cannot be explained.

I have frequently amused myself with ingrafting twigs of the same stock, into other limbs; and also those from another stock, of the same kind, and in observing the consequences. The Apple, and Pear, ingrafted into this thorn, grow thriftily, and much sooner yield fruit than the growth of either of these would do from their own seeds. An orchard may very soon be had, in this way, in new countries, where there are no apple-trees to insert grafts into: and besides this, I am fully persuaded the trees will be of a more hardy character. In cold climates, particularly, this circumstance is of no small importance. The Apple, is capable of being raised in very high latitudes. In Southern regions, where the fruit degenerates, I would also recommend a trial by ingrafting into the thorn. In Virginia, the thorn is very common; and the crab-apple is also seen in great abundance. I wish some person would try the experi-

ment, fairly, with both the thorn and crab. The Apple graft takes readily, also, in the large box, or dog-wood, of Virginia, and the Southern States; and perhaps by means of some one or all of these trees, the means may be found out, for extending the range of this very valuable fruit, into climates where it is now unknown. Whether these hints will be of any service to the public, I know not; but they are, in substance, the same that I have repeatedly given to persons of my acquaintance, within 12 or 15 years past, and a good many of these have told me they had derived some advantage from them. The manner of inserting a bud, which is called propagating by inoculation, is known to most people, as is the common manner of ingrafting. My method of performing this latter operation, where the graft, and the branch, or stock into which it is to be inserted, are nearly of the same diameter, is far more simple, and performed in much less time than that in common use. I have often done it, in nurseries and orchards, in the presence of the owner, without exciting his attention; and after some years had elapsed, have pointed out to him a vigorous shoot which had arisen from this graft, and then told him when it was inserted. I have lately visited an orchard, in company with the owner, in which, 3 years before, I had inserted in this way, and in his presence, several grafts of choice fruit, some of which I now found loaded with Apples. There is a pleasure in this thing, which I wish were better known among Farmers and Gardeners. Whenever I find a tree that produces apples of a good quality, I rob it of some twigs, or single buds; and I am rarely abroad without some of these in my pockets. The uncommon excellence of my own apples, has given me a kind of reputation among my Neighbors and acquaintances, that, somehow, always leads them to invite me to their nurseries and orchards. Now—among all sorts of people, there are a great many on whom my labor would be lost, were I to undertake to instruct them in relation to my art. Like the visitors of the family of the Vicar of Wakefield, they may admire my apples, my currants, and other fruits, and my cider, and wine, but they would never take care, by their own labors, to supply themselves with such as they admire! When persons of this description lead me to their fruit trees, I only insert some twigs, or buds, while examining the trees, and leave them to the care of nature. In other cases, I give instructions in my art, and place a few buds, by inoculation, or twigs, by ingrafting, to perpetuate at once a remembrance of it, and a demonstration of its success. You may smile at this, Sir, and perhaps many of your readers may do the same; but there may be others who will derive very considerable advantages from my hints. There are persons in my neighborhood, who have pretty good farms, who now make more money from their fruit, than all their other products; and that too without having increased, but very little, the number of their fruit trees, or the quantity of ground appropriated to fruit. A few years since, they were but indifferently supplied, and that with but indifferent fruit, cider &c., for their own families. These people, as well as myself, now find a pleasure in this thing—and probably some of them may not thank me for thus attempting to extend this

pleasure to many others. While there is yet so much room for improvement, and there are so few disposed to embrace the opportunity ; and while so many are fond of the luxury of good fruit, cider, and wine, there is little to be apprehended from a depreciation in the prices of these articles.

March, 1816.

AGRICOLA.

SMALL POX, AND VACCINATION.

THERE seems to be a strange propensity in the human mind, to slight the benefits of Divine Providence. When, many years ago, we first learnt that Vaccination, under proper regulations, and with due precaution, would prove a certain preventive of Small Pox, and that it might be made to eradicate that most formidable disease, we could not have believed that, so soon, 42 persons would fall its victims, within two weeks, during the winter of 1814, -15, in the single city of New-York. We did believe that public authority would compel every person to resort to Vaccination, and thus ensure the public safety. Why it has not been done, is more than we can tell. The public good demands such a provision, and until the measure is adopted, it will be in vain to expect general security against occasional attacks of the Small Pox, in our country. It is to be hoped that the present Winter may not be permitted to pass without some provision for a measure of such great concern to the public. We have already presented to our Readers an Account of the National Vaccine Establishment of England,* with some intelligence from France, on the same subject, to which we again beg leave to call their attention. It now appears, by the official Reports of the City Inspector, that during the Week ending on the 30th Dec. last, there were 20 deaths in the city of New-York, occasioned by Small Pox ; and 22 deaths, by the same disease, during the Week ending on the 6th of January 1816. These facts should be conspicuously placed on public Record, and frequently held up to public view. Besides these, in New-York, we learn from many other places that the same disease is exciting great alarm, and many valuable lives are lost by it. Some cases have occurred in this City ; and we are authorised by several of our best Physicians to say, that they offer their services to the poor, gratis, and will gladly Vaccinate all who may apply. There is no doubt that every Physician in the City would do the same, on being applied to ; and this is probably the case every where, where there are Physicians. Before closing these remarks, we are constrained to repeat our fears that unless some compulsory measures are adopted by public authority, to make Vaccination a duty of every citizen and every parent and guardian, the remedy which it offers will never be but partially employed. If it be so, this subject deserves the attention of every benevolent mind, and is worthy of all the powers and hopes of some American Howard, some distinguished philanthropist, who shall lead the way in a measure fraught with incalculable good.

*See p. 118.

It is not our province to add, though it is no matter who makes the remark, that it requires some considerable skill to distinguish the genuine Vaccine Lymph which would operate effectually, from that which would not do so; and that therefore we should be careful to employ none but persons of competent skill in Vaccination. We apprehend great difficulties from these circumstances. Any body can insert the infectious matter, and this being the case we are fearful too little care will be exercised in seeing that this matter is certainly good. Danger is feared less or more as it is supposed to be remote or near. The unfrequent occurrence of small pox would diminish the public apprehension, till, it is to be feared, few would employ vaccination, until aroused to an immediate sense of imminent danger! And all these views unite in demanding of those who make the Laws, that provision should be immediately made for compelling every person to unite in those measures in which alone the public safety can find assurance. Satisfied of the benevolent intentions, and well assured of the great anxiety of Medical Men on this subject, we offer an apology for these remarks, and only hope that the public attention may be duly exerted, and that in good time..

EDITOR.

Vaccination.—Extract from the Report of the British National Vaccine Establishment, dated May 25, 1815.—“The failures of Vaccination, which formerly occasioned so much alarm, are now become extremely rare, from the improved methods which have been adopted. Most of these failures, appear to have arisen from the practice of vaccinating by a single puncture, and afterwards opening the vesicle, and taking a portion of lymph, for the purpose of propagating the infection. In one instance, which had been thus treated, a fatal attack of the Small-Pox ensued. But in most of such cases, even when the Small-Pox actually occurred, the disease was so much mitigated, as to be devoid of danger. These accidents may, however, be almost always prevented by exciting two or more vesicles, and by carefully observing that one of them should pass completely through all the stages of the vaccine process, unopened and undisturbed. Whenever the slightest irregularity has occurred, the patient ought to be re-vaccinated for his security.”

STATE OF OHIO.

I AM unable even to conjecture, what portion of my Readers will be gratified with the information below, concerning the natural productions of the State of Ohio. To some, it will undoubtedly be new and interesting. The Letter from which this extract is made, was written by one of the most intelligent and distinguished citizens of that country; and though dated so long ago as in Aug. 1810, contains information of a kind that never grows old. So far as I know, it has not been anticipated by any that has been given to the public. It will be recollected that the county of Geauga, is situated on the Southern shore of Lake Erie, about the latitude of Newburgh, on the Hudson.

Though foreign to the purpose for which I took my pen, I must detain the reader while I make a few remarks. We often hear inquiries, concerning the climate, soil, &c. of distant countries, which call for just such expositions as are contained in this Letter; and yet how rarely do we meet with such Letters! There is no way in which so much information, accessible to every body capable of writing a Letter, can be conveyed to a friend abroad, concerning the climate, soil, and the physical geography of a country, as by a

bare enumeration of its natural productions. Every person, in such a country as America, feels an interest in extending his acquaintance with those features of natural geography; and yet, while thousands of Letters are daily traversing the country in all directions, from and to all parts of the Union, not one word of this kind of information goes with them, though every body wants to possess it! There are, happily, few people who will submit to the labor of writing a long Essay; and yet every body writes Letters. Emigrations have more widely dispersed the members of families, and more generally, in America, than in any other country on earth. The knowledge of our geography, is yet in its infancy. Among the countries to which emigrants remove, and the friends to whom they frequently write after their removal, there are none too well known, and none of their friends to whom such an enumeration would not prove highly acceptable. There is no person, capable of writing a Letter of friendship;—not even excepting those who confine themselves to that stupid form of Letter-writing, which we all have learnt at school;—‘I now take my pen in hand,’ &c. &c. ‘hoping these few lines,’ and all that, but might, if they would give themselves the trouble, furnish a pretty good and correct description of the place where they live, with such an enumeration as I propose of its natural productions. Nor would they fail to succeed much better in the attempt, than even themselves had expected. Few people, on making it, would fail to find it a pleasing exercise, though dreaded as a painful task, before the effort had been made. If Parents, and Teachers, would adopt a plan of this kind, they would soon discover that not only are sensible objects the first and most general objects of sense, but also of attention. In teaching composition, as an exercise, if, instead of unmeaning letters of compliments, of pleasure, of friendship, of love, or business, the attention of youth were directed to compositions of this kind, we would soon learn how much more strong and distinct are the impressions on their minds, derived from sensible objects around them, than from those of imagination and the dawning passions. I have often been surprised to witness the accuracy of even children, in thus extending their mental survey, and describing, like little geographers, the features of nature, and its productions. In addition to this, they learn to arrange their words and ideas with method and effect, in an exercise that cannot fail to be interesting, while it improves their faculties, and fixes attention. We should always remember that the imagery of simple ideas, occupy the minds of youth at a much earlier period, than such as are complex, derived from numerous associations, and ideas variously combined. If improvement of the mind be the object of instruction, or desirable at all, it is necessary, early in life, to accustom it to the labor of, at least, some thinking, and some reliance on thought. From the nature of my avocations, I have had more occasion to observe this than have most people; and while I may have overrated the value of the acquisition, for I have spent many years in collecting information of this kind, I may also have been, in some degree, misled by my own predilections. In candor and sincerity, I believe I have not been—but that these remarks, hastily written, are entitled to all the consideration and importance that I have attached to them. Having trespassed so much on the Reader’s time, and the room that I have appropriated for this article, I shall be obliged to make less copious extracts from the Letter of my Correspondent than I had intended; a *fault*, for which I will endeavor to make amends whenever I have opportunity.

Ed.

• “Painesville, Ohio, Aug. 4, 1810.”

“THE *Illinois Nut*, which you mention, is, I presume, what is known by the name of *Pecon-nut*. I cannot find that it is indigenous N. of the 39th degree of latitude, nor E. of the Wabash river; but those that have been raised from the Nut, in this State, thrive well wherever they have been planted. I do not learn that any tree, produced in this way, has yet had time to attain its full

growth. It can hardly be distinguished from a middle-sized pig-nut hickory. The Nut resembles an acorn out of its cup, is about the size of a large one, and its taste appears to be a compound of the best hickory-nut and almond. The shell is softer than that of a hazle-nut. The *Papaw*, grows spontaneously, and in great abundance, on the alluvial lands in the southern and middle parts of this state. It is a delicious fruit, about the size, and nearly the shape of a large cucumber, though not so tapering at the ends. The seeds, commonly 12 in number, are placed transversely, 3 together, and might be mistaken for almonds. Like that of the Pecon-nut, its taste is a compound, formed from those of the pine-apple and citron-melon. When growing, it is very hard and dry, of a deepish green, acquiring a yellowish cast as it ripens, and a pale brown when fully ripe, when its flavor is exquisitely fine. This happens after the first frosts. *Cotton*, is raised to advantage for family use in the southern parts, and some of the *Indigo Plant*. A kind of *Coffee-bean*, which is an excellent substitute for foreign *Coffee*, is raised with great care. *Tomato*, used for tarts, and *Sweet Potatoes*, are raised easily S. of the 40th degree of latitude. I have succeeded well in experiments with all these, in my own garden here, except the Pecon-nut, Papaw and Potatoes. The *Cucumber Tree* is very abundant. Perhaps you have it in New-York, also, but I never saw any in New-England. You will recollect that *Genuga County*, from which I write, is situated about latitude 41 deg. 45 min. I need not enumerate all the common products of agriculture, such as wheat, maize, rye, barley, oats, flax, pease, &c. all which are raised in such abundance with us, and with such ease, compared with most other countries. Our native *Botany*, opulent in the stores of nature, has been little examined. There are, no doubt, many indigenous grasses, that ought to be introduced into our fields. Delays, in this kind of investigation, are deeply to be regretted;—for these vegetable products, like the wild-men of the woods, either flee from habitual cultivation, or soon perish in their natal soil, and are lost forever. There is an indigenous plant, called the *Buffalo Clover*, which, from its luxuriance in its native forests and prairies, I should suppose ought to be domesticated, if I may so say, and cherished in our cultivated fields: and the same remark may be applied to many native grasses, which cover our open-woods and prairies, with a rich coat of vegetation, luxuriant and nutritious. The dried specimens which I send you, with the seeds of many of them, may enable you to judge of the fitness of these plants for cultivation, and to propagate them in the state of New-York. I shall occasionally avail myself of opportunities to add to your collections of this kind, and also your Mineralogical collections. Like our Botany, our *Mineralogy* has been little investigated. It is not to cultivate the sciences, that the early inhabitants of new countries devote themselves: this was not the object of their migration. If there are, among us, some men of science, their time is necessarily engrossed by other pursuits. These circumstances may change, with the progress of time and events; and I should most gladly persuade myself, that, in the mean time, much

of what we ought to have gained, had not been irrecoverably lost. *Iron-ore*, in some of its combinations of oxydes, abounds in almost every section of the State, and is the only metal brought into practical use. We have some *Furnaces* and *Bloomeries*, which make excellent *Iron*. *Mineral Coal*, is very abundant in some parts; and we have a good variety of *Earths*, such as *Clays*, *Ochres*, &c., and of *Stones*, such as the *Grit* for *Grindstones*, *Slates*, *Limestones*, &c.—The *Ochrey-Earths*, are very abundant, and afford a good variety of natural *Pigments* for *Paints*, besides being wrought into *Iron*. We have many other *Minerals*, disclosed to casual observation, by the washing of the waters, or in removing the soil, and which, no doubt, to the eye of an experienced Mineralogist, might disclose new treasures.

The persons named below, as having united with me in acceding to the propositions contained in your last Letter, will severally communicate with you, and cheerfully aid in promoting the object of your labors. From them you will receive more, and better information: they have more time to devote in this way, and far greater ability.”

H.

TEA KETTLE AND STEAM BOILER.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR—

IN this age of experiments and inventions, perhaps you may think proper to submit the following remarks to your Readers. The use of the **TEA KETTLE**, is so intimately connected with my enjoyment, and this article is so much used in families, that I have been anxious to apply to the construction of it whatever is known capable of making any improvement. With this view, and at the instance of my Wife, who, I must tell you, is not only a most excellent judge of tea kettles, but has the true spirit of thrift in housekeeping, I propose to submit my remarks to the public. Whatever of delay we may submit to in heating water in other vessels, and for other uses, it is always a desirable matter to be able to heat the water in the Tea Kettle, with the greatest dispatch. During a considerable portion of each year, the weather is so warm that fire is little used in preparation, for at least 2 of the meals of each day, except for the heating a small quantity of water in the Tea Kettle. It therefore becomes the more important to improve the construction of this vessel, so that the water may be heated with the least expense of fuel, and with the greatest possible facility. I therefore propose the following forms for this vessel, varied according to occasion. For a Tea Kettle, intended for a hanging position in an open fire-place, I would propose to surround the whole of the sides by a sheet-iron case, fixed to a position that would leave about 1 inch to a half inch of space from the Kettle all around. This case should be open at the top for the removal of the lid; and open at the bottom also, below which it should extend

downward say 2 inches. The effect of this would be to surround the whole Kettle, except just at the lid, with nearly the same intensity of heat that the bottom is exposed to. If hung in a flame of a quick fire, the flame is reverberated on the bottom, in the usual way—and by the case above-mentioned, it is concentrated so as to enclose the whole Kettle in flame. Were it desirable to extend this improvement still further, and by either increasing the size of the vessel with its apparatus, or diminishing the quantity of water, to construct it so as to boil still quicker, I would propose a double covering of that part which contains the main quantity of water. The outside one should be such as I have just described; the second should be a complete envelope of the inner cavity, except just at the lid, capable of holding a small quantity of water, which would soon boil, and thus, by surrounding the cooler water with steam, transmit rapidly its caloric. The effect of this would be, in the first place, to surround the whole vessel with nearly as great a heat as that which acts on the bottom; for the flame ascending up the sides, issues at the top;—in the second place, to apply this heat directly to a small quantity of water, so circumstanced as to present an extended surface,—that surface being itself the envelope of the vessel containing the water which you want to heat quickly for use.

But, as I know how difficult it is to make a description of this kind sufficiently plain, let us go over it again, beginning with the middle vessel, which I will call the *Boiler*, and which may hold 6 or 8 quarts. Surround this entirely, except just at top, with another vessel of the same shape, but so narrow as to hold but about 1 pint of water. This must have a small opening at top; and a very small leak from the *Boiler*, may keep this, which I call the *Heater*, sufficiently supplied with water. The outside, or *Arch*, is now to be added, open at bottom and top, and leaving a space all around the Heater of about 1 to 1-2 inch, through which the flame, or the heat, may ascend to pass out at the top, and envelope the Heater, which soon boils, and transmits its heat to the Boiler. It will be observed that the arch, or outer case, must descend about 2 inches, or perhaps rather more, below the bottom of the Heater, in order to confine the ascending heat or flame to the cavity of this arch. But for this, the ascending current of heat rebounds, and produces little effect on the sides of the vessel. Looking at the process will sooner explain this effect, and more satisfactorily, than it can be done in writing. Stoves are much in use, in large towns; and where the water is to be heated by these, the outer case or arch, might better be omitted, unless the Kettle is to stand on the outside, or top of the stove. In this case, it would be of some use, and would be of still more if the projection at the bottom were principally removed. It may be proper to observe that this apparatus may have any form that you think proper to give it, either from motives of fancy, or economy, or convenience: and that a discharging cork should always be inserted near the bottom. The bulk is necessarily increased by this contrivance, but not so considerably as to be materially objectionable, while a very great saving is made

in time, and in the expense of fuel. Were the water not wanted for the purposes of cooking, a further saving of caloric might be effected, by terminating the Heater in a curved pipe, at the bottom, within the Boiler, which must then have a small space at top. By this method, there would be very little waste of caloric; but for vessels employed in cooking, it would require great care to keep the Heater from becoming foul and dirty. In the Steam Engine, and similar works, this principle might be applied to great advantage: nor do I despair of adopting it to the utensils and operations of the kitchen. In this particular, it is but justice to say I have great expectations from the ingenuity and talents of the ladies.— Whatever you may think of this project, I can assure you it has fully answered all my expectations, and that they were at least as great as most people would venture to form before the application had been made, and the principle fairly tried. I need not stop to point out to you how easily a little arch of loose bricks may be formed in one corner of your fire-place, in which to burn a few ounces of dry wood under this Tea Kettle, which soon boils the water. Nor how readily the Kettle may be fitted so as to set occasionally into a circular piece of sheet-iron, having a little door like that of a stove on one side, into which the fuel may be put, the ascending flame from which will boil the water in a very few minutes, at an expense of a few ounces of dry fuel. About 2 pounds of charcoal well ignited, will boil 12 pounds of water within 5 to 10 minutes, and without smoke, in such an apparatus as I have described, the expense of which need not exceed 3 to 5 dollars. The Boiler and the Heater may be made of tin-plate, but the arch should be of sheet-iron, because the dry heat would unsolder the joints.

There is one effect of unequal temperatures, in the transmission of caloric, which I have never seen noticed in any of the books, nor do I know that it has been generally observed, but which claims a good deal of consideration, in a case like the one I am now considering. I speak of the greater or less affinity for caloric which certain, and indeed all substances possess, according to their heat: hot iron, or at least that warmed up to the boiling point of water, has much greater affinity for caloric than that at a lower temperature. If you hang a Kettle of cold water over a fire, the blaze seems repelled by the iron, before it comes into actual contact: and as the Kettle heats, the blaze reaches nearer and nearer, before reverberated, till at last it actually lights upon the iron. So also, if you expose the kettle in a uniform blaze of heat, for any given time, say until the water is raised to 212 deg.; you may perceive by your thermometer that the heat of the water increases far more rapidly during the latter than the early part of the time. This is but a consequence of the first case, but is added by way of confirmation. And this shows the economy of my *Heater*, as before described; which, by holding a very small quantity of water, soon becomes boiling hot, when it rapidly absorbs caloric from the fire, and transmits it to the Boiler, which it almost completely envelopes. I have no doubt that the boiler of a large steam-engine, constructed in this way, might

be worked with a very great saving of fuel ; and as I am preparing to try it, on a large scale, you may expect to hear from me again. Actual demonstration, is the surest way to proceed, in all such enquiries ; but as the Tea Kettle amply confirms the justness of these arguments, I need not delay sending to you till the Boiler of a steam-engine is completed. My object in this larger experiment is to determine precise data for calculating the saving of fuel in large works. The saving of fuel, in the use of the steam-engine, is becoming a subject of no small importance, in this country, where wood is so dear and constantly becoming more so. Nor is the enquiry unimportant, even where coal and wood abound. A Steam Boat, on a long voyage, consumes so much fuel, that even the freight of it makes large drawbacks on its time and expenses.

G.

MECHANIC ARTS.

Mead's jointed, reclining, Valetudinary Cot-Chair, on Rockers.

I had seen and admired this very ingenious and useful article, when first made at the Shop of the Patentee ;—for it exhibits a very handsome specimen of mechanical ingenuity, as well as of invention and workmanship. But, being then in full health, I had only examined and admired it, in relation to its perfection, according to the inventor's design. A severe fit of sickness, has, since that time, reduced me to such a state of feebleness and debility, as to make the acquisition of such a machine, extremely desirable : and after a full experience of the convenience, and the benefits I have derived from it, I am now about to commend it to others. The inventor is JOHN MEAD, a Cabinet Maker, in this City ; and it was my intention to accompany this Notice, with a drawing of the Machine, and a minute description, which I had accordingly prepared for that purpose. In this intention I am opposed by the fears of the Patentee, lest others might copy from my drawing and description, and infringe on his right as Inventor. He may be right in this matter, for I well know that our system of Patent laws, is, to say the least of it, just good for nothing. If we had no laws on this subject, it would, in my opinion, be better for Inventors, and for the country at large, than to have such as those now in use. This system, if such it may be called, which only consists in getting 30 dollars for the Treasury, and giving no equivalent, is one of the worst that possibly can be devised.

In forming this Chair, the object of the Inventor was to form an *Easy Chair* for the sick, capable of affording a variety of positions, for their ease, while sitting or reclining, with the convenience of a *Rocking Chair*, and a *Close Stool* ; and so contrived that, without disturbing the incumbent, his Chair might be converted into a *Bed*, by letting down the back of it to any position, either quite horizontal, or inclined under any angle that might be desired. And he has effected all this, so that the changes of position, and the

transformations, (if I may so say,) are made with ease, even by any child in attendance. When converted into a *Chair*, it is easily kept in motion on the rockers; and being furnished with cushions, is equally soft and easy for a *Chair* or *Bed*. I slept on one of them several nights; and when tired of a horizontal position, my little daughter, about 12 years old, very readily converted my *Bed* into an *Easy-Chair*, without any effort of mine: and after I grew tired of the exercise of rocking, again transformed it into a *Bed*. It appears to me there is great advantage to the sick, in having such facilities for varying their positions. Medical Gentlemen, can best conceive the importance of these circumstances; and I should suppose that both these, and persons having charge of Hospitals and Infirmarys, ought to make themselves acquainted with this invention. The use of it in Hospitals, would be a great saving in the expense of attendance on the sick, though probably the first cost of furnishing their apartments, would be something more than that at which they are now furnished. Fewer articles would be required, however, and the saving of room, in consequence, might be an important advantage. While yet but few people have seen, or heard of *MEAD'S VALETUDINARY COT-CHAIR, ON ROCKERS*, which is equally well adapted for the use of the sick or the infirm, in private families, and in hospitals, it is in the power of the Physicians and Surgeons to say whether or not it shall soon make its way to general use: but I anticipate the period, and that not remote, when the Ladies shall pronounce upon this matter, independently of Professional Men, and at least call *Mead's Chair* into every Nursery where taste and fashion meet with wealth. Besides all the good qualities I have mentioned, it is even an elegant article of furniture.

Ed.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR—

Recollecting your remarks on the minute subdivision of lands in New England, and the multiplication of small freeholds, with the inferences you drew from them, in our late conversation, I have taken some pains, since my return, as well to ascertain the correctness of your positions, as your inferences. The result of my inquiry has been far different from what I had supposed; and I offer the following facts for the information of your Readers. You will recollect that the object of my journey to the State of New-York, was to examine some lands that I own there, to pay the taxes that might be due on them, and to make some observations preparatory to my removal into that state;—and that you were good enough to loan me the Comptroller's List, of the Lands about to be offered for sale, in default of payment of taxes due thereon. This List is now before me, as is also a similar one, for the United States' Direct Tax, of 1815, loaned me by a Collector, for the state of Connecticut. The difference in the amount of taxes, compared with the amount and value of the Lands, has engaged my attention: and a comparison of these documents affords a good deal of information. But this

comparison is not my present object, only so far as relates to the very striking difference in the magnitudes of freehold possessions, comparing New-York with Connecticut. The List of Lands, &c. in this state, assessed for taxes, embraces every county, and includes all the possessions of delinquents, amounting to near 700 in all. In this number of freeholds, there are but 14, of 100 to 150 acres; 8, of 150 to 200 do.; 5, of 200 to 250; 2, of 250 acres; 1 of 251; and 1, of 293 acres, being the largest freehold on the List. I need not compare this with that of New-York, which comprises several thousand estates, and many of them of a great many thousand acres, with a very small proportion of small ones: but perhaps, after all, by running a comparison of the numbers of delinquent estates, I might find something to gratify *our* pride, on the score of punctuality in payment, which might offset against the diminutiveness of our freeholds, in comparative quantities. If ours are too small, yours must be too large; and the comparison shows that New-York has yet room for a great many more freeholders. Happily for the interests of agriculture, and those of Republicanism, the basis of all our civil institutions and social compacts in America, such of our population as are disposed to migrate, are tenacious of acquiring freeholds, by a tenure of allodial perpetuity. It is this circumstance that leads so many to traverse your state, and settle in Ohio. Not because there are no lands for sale, in New-York, on these conditions; but that they inherit, from our Ancestors, a sort of jealousy of those who hold Lordships and Manors, and a kind of contemptible idea of such as can consent to become Tenants! I like the source from which such sentiments arise, faulty as their indulgence may be, and however liable to exceptions. The country of durable improvements in agriculture;—such as good buildings, good farms, with fences, orchards, &c. &c., must be one owned, *without fee*, by those who cultivate it. You know that I am a Farmer, and can therefore excuse me, if I indulge myself in some degree, in prejudices of this sort, peculiar to, and common among all those who cultivate the soil.

Wethersfield, C.———1816.

H.——

GAS LIGHTS.

WE are glad to perceive that the method of procuring light from Gas, is beginning to attract public notice. It appears that 14lbs. of rosin, will produce 600 gallons of this gas, which will afford as much light as 24 candles of 6 to the pound. These 600 gallons of gas, may be compressed into a space of about one gallon, using a cask such as is employed for soda water, familiarly known in our populous Towns. It is said, too, that besides affording this quantity of gas, these 14lbs. of rosin will yield several pounds of varnish. Preserved in these casks, the gas is made portable, like other fluids, and may be readily transported from the manufactory to any place where it is wanted for use.

W. W.

In this City, we have seen but little attention bestowed on this subject. Mr. Mayell, indeed, a Hatter, in S. Market street, and a very ingenious mechanic, has indulged his taste for scientific investigation, and gratified some of his friends by exhibiting the result of some small experiments. We learn, also, with much pleasure, that Mr. Trowbridge has it in contemplation to light up his *Museum*, by next winter, with this gas, in which we hope he may persevere. The public curiosity is excited, and we hope may be fully gratified.

ED.

AGRICULTURAL.

I HAVE lately met with a very valuable British publication, on a branch of practical Agriculture, which I think is but little studied among the Farmers of the United States. An American edition of this work, would probably be highly useful to our Farmers, and to the country at large. We have lately had several Works on Agriculture, some of them original, and some imported, published in this country; but, so far as I know, we are without a book of practical directions, for the selection and management of Domestic Stock. The Work now before me, is entitled, "Observations on Live Stock; containing hints for choosing and improving the best Breeds of the most useful kinds of Domestic Animals, by George Culley, Farmer, Northumberland." It appears to me to be written very intelligibly, and by an experienced Farmer, of much observation and great good sense. The directions are all very plain, and it is, in every respect, well calculated for a book of practical instruction. If I can find room, I intend to present my Readers with such extracts, as will enable them, at least, to form an opinion as to the general correctness of those I have expressed. It has always appeared to me that works on Agriculture, to be useful and acceptable to Farmers, must be written by men practically acquainted with all its details, and without any affectation of literary excellence. Such is Culley's Book; and I learn, from an English Farmer of my acquaintance, that the Author is exactly what he seems to be, a full-bred Farmer, and one of the most persevering and successful breeders of Stock in England. I learn, too, what may seem almost incredible here, that in one year, Culley had realized, for the hire of his Rams and Bulls, but principally the former, an income amounting to 1800 guineas! My informant inspected his Books of Registry, and tells me that Culley's Stock was thus employed in almost every county of England, besides Ireland and Scotland.

The following extract, though longer than I could have wished, will hardly admit of abridgement; and if it do but encourage any of our Farmers to persevere in the raising of Sheep, I shall congratulate myself on having rendered a service to my country. There is great danger, just now, lest we really undervalue this race of animals. If wool has fallen so low that the Farmers are disgusted with the Merino, and other fine-woolled breeds, though I think this

a discouragement that must be short-lived, I can but hope that some at least will seek the Dishley breed, if only for their mutton. Since I saw Culley's account of the extraordinary fatness of this breed, I have paid more attention to the mutton in our markets. The difference is truly too great to be mentioned. But why may not the Farmers, in this country, find it profitable to make fat mutton for our markets? It appears to me that the expense of doing so, compared with the known prices of butcher's-meat, would well warrant the experiment;—unless, indeed, it should become a fashion to do it, and so overdo, and destroy the business. Such has been the case with the Merino, as respects its wool; and the fashion having changed, every one is now killing off this stock, whether fat or lean, by which the market is overstocked, and the reputation of mutton, for our tables, is at least as low as the meat is poor. But I am detaining the Reader too long; and will only add that I have sent to England for a copy of the latest edition of Culley's Book, in hopes to persuade some of our Booksellers to publish an American edition. The Book may be expected in a few days. Ed.

SHEEP,

We may venture to say, are of the greatest importance to this nation, most worthy the constant attention of the legislature, and the particular consideration of almost every farmer in Great Britain; for we have very few farms in this island, whereon they may not be kept to advantage, either for breeding, for grazing, or for feeding fat lambs. Mr. Pope somewhere says, 'The fur that warms the Monarch warm'd a bear.' But the wool of these valuable creatures warm every class of people, from the king to the beggar, employing thousands in the manufacture of their fleeces, and whole fleets in the exportation. Every individual is interested in this great staple commodity, from the lord who sits upon a woolsack, to the industrious poor who cheerfully card and spin; or, as the old Scotch song has it,

— "The bonny harmless sheep
 "That feed on mountains stay and steep,
 "Bleating sweetly as they go,
 "Thro' the Winter's frost and snow;
 "Hart, and Hind, and Fallow-Deer,
 "Not by half, so useful are.
 "Fra kings to him that hads the plow,
 "Are all oblig'd to tarry-woo."

The numberless flocks that are every where spread over the face of this island, from the Land's-end to Johnny Groat's House, are exceedingly intermixed and varied. Nevertheless, the original distinct breeds, I apprehend, may be classed as in the annexed synopsis.

In regard to these different breeds of sheep, we shall pursue pretty nearly the same method we did with the cattle, after first giving

A description of the Ram.

His head should be fine and small, his nostrils wide and expanded, his eyes prominent and rather bold or daring, ears thin, his collar full from his breast and shoulders, but tapering gradually all the way to where the neck and head join, which should be very fine and graceful, being perfectly free from any coarse leather hanging down; the shoulders broad and full, which must at the same time join so easy to the collar forward, and chine backward, as to leave not the least hollow in either place; the mutton upon his arm or fore-thigh, must come quite to the knee; his legs upright, with a clean fine

bone, being equally clear from superfluous skin and coarse hairy wool from the knee and hough downwards; the breast broad and well forward, which will keep his fore-legs at a proper wideness; his girth or chest full and deep, and instead of a hollow behind the shoulders, that part by some called the fore-flank should be quite full; the back and loins broad, flat, and straight, from which the ribs must rise with a fine circular arch; his belly straight, the quarters long and full, with the mutton quite down to the hough, which should neither stand in nor out; his twist* deep, wide, and full, which, with the broad breast, will keep his four legs open and upright; the whole body covered with a thin pelt, and that with fine, bright, soft wool.

The nearer any breed of sheep comes up to the above description, the nearer they approach towards excellence of form; and there is little doubt but if the same attention and pains were taken to improve any particular breed that has been taken with a certain variety of the Lincolnshire, the same consequences would be obtained. The variety here meant, is that first selected by Mr. Robert Bakewell, of Dishley, in Leicestershire, who with singular discernment and great attention, has raised a breed of sheep unknown in any former period: and which surpass all other breeds in their propensity to get fat, and in paying the most money for the quantity of food consumed. From the residence of the first selector, this variety is now generally known by the name of

The Dishley breed.

They are peculiarly distinguished from other long-woolled breeds, by their fine lively eyes, clean heads, straight, broad, flat backs, round (barrel-like) bodies, very fine small bones, thin pelts, and inclination to make fat at an early age; this last property is most probably owing to the before-specified qualities; and which, from long experience and observation, there is reason to believe, extends through every species of domestic animals. The Dishley Breed is not only peculiar for its mutton being fat, but also for the fineness of the grain and superior flavor, above all other large long-woolled sheep, so as to fetch nearly as good a price, in many markets, as the mutton of the small, Highland, and short-woolled breeds.

The weight of the carcase in general is,—

Ewes, 3 or 4 years old, from 18lb. to 26lb. a quarter.

Wethers, 2 years old, ——— 20lb. to 30lb. a quarter.

The wool, upon an average, 8lb. a fleece.—The length from 6 to 14 inches, sold in 1792, at 10d. per lb.

There are two reasons for killing the wethers at two years-old:—First, they leave the most profit; and, Secondly, if kept longer, they get too fat for genteel tables. To people who are strangers to these sheep, this may appear rather problematical; the following facts may remove their doubts:—A three-year old wether, belonging to the Author, was killed at Alnwick, by Mr. James Bolton, the 2d of October, 1787, which measured seven inches and one-eighth of solid fat on the ribs, cut straight thro' without any slope, and his back from head to tail, was like the fattest bacon. It is very common for two-year old wethers to cut four inches thick of fat on the ribs, and from two to three inches all down the back: Even ewes of this kind, which have bred and suckled lambs till July, when killed about the Christmas following, will frequently measure four or five inches thick of fat on the sides, and two or three inches down the back, all the way from head to tail; and tho' this breed are not eminent for much tallow, yet ewes under such circumstances, generally produce from 18 to 24lb. of tallow each. To weak appetites it is not so inviting as the leaner mutton, but it finds a ready market amongst the manufacturing and laborious part of the community, whom necessity has taught to lay out their money to the best advantage, and who have found by experience, that a pound of bone is not so nutritive as a pound of mutton; and of course they always endeavor to buy that which has the least bone and most flesh.†

* Twist,—the junction of the inside of the thighs.

† I am well informed that when the laborious class find this mutton too

The weight of wool clipped from these sheep is not so great as from some other long-woolled kinds; but the wool of this breed hath hitherto been only a secondary consideration; the *quantity* and *quality* of the mutton obtained at the *least expence of food*, was the great object of the first improver;—this point gained, a new field opens to the experimental rural philosopher, to cover these good carcasses with the most valuable fleeces.

This improved breed is making its way very rapidly into all parts of the kingdom, by the practice of hiring tups; the price of which, for the use of one season only, is astonishing; and to those who do not know with what eagerness this breed is sought after, (by all who have tried them) may seem incredible; yet it is a fact, that Mr. Bakewell has let tups, for one season only, for four hundred guineas each, and taken in ewes to be tupped at ten guineas each, (80 from two persons, and 40 of his own) makes the sum of twelve hundred guineas for one tup in one season: Besides these he lets several, every year, at two and three hundred guineas each.

Our mode of management of this breed is as follows:—The ewes generally lamb in March, when we give them a few turnips to increase their milk; the latter end of June or beginning of July, the lambs are weaned, and sent to middling pastures; the ewes are milked two or three times to ease their udders, and such as are not meant to be continued for breeding, are culled out and put to clover: When this fails, they get turnips, and are sold about Christmas, very fat, to the butchers, the price from 34s. to 40s. per head.

The lambs, after having been weaned, take the name of *hogs*; they are generally put to turnips the beginning of November,* and continue at them till the middle of April or beginning of May, when the wether-hogs are put upon good pasture, or second year's clover. The second winter they have turnips, till the clover is sufficiently grown to receive them, which is generally about the middle of April. They are clipped about the middle of May, and generally all sold by the middle or end of June.—Morpeth is our best market; where the two-shear wethers have been sold, for the last three years, from 40s. to 50s. per head.

We generally reckon one-third of the ewes to have two lambs each; that is, every 60 ewes to have 80 lambs.—They are put to the tup, so as to have lambs at two years old, and kept for breeding until three or four years old, except such as are of particular forms, or have other valuable properties; these we keep as long as ever they will breed. Such as are defective in shape, suspected of being slow feeders, or other unprofitable qualities, we never put to the tup, or attempt to breed from them.

SIR—

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

I do not know whether the facts which I am about to detail to you will be deemed of any importance, at this time, to the public, but I am well assured that they ought to be put on public record. In the year 1794, we had a severe frost in this country, on the 17th of May, and I believe the same frost extended over the northern part of New-York, and the most of New England. The wheat, here, was just beginning to ear, and the grass, in the earliest meadows, was about 6 to 8 inches high. Such was the severity of the frost, and such the weather immediately after it, that the grass was killed close to the ground, with almost every other tender vegetable. The morning after the frost was very clear, and the day pro-

fat, they cut off a part of the fattest, with which they make suet-dumplings, or bread-paste with it for pies, &c. and not unfrequently make sea or boiled-pies of the fattest parts.

* As we find it prevents a disorder called the black-water.

ved quite warm for the season. The fields had the appearance of having been newly mown, and gave out the same odour as that from new mown hay. The grass sprouted again, as we expected, and we had about our usual crop. I had a field of wheat of about 40 acres, on a heavy argillaceous loam, pretty wet, and covered with what our Farmers call black muck, which appeared to be entirely destroyed;—and I had no expectation of any crop, when I saw it perfectly dead, down to the roots, and the stalks drying to hay. But in the course of a very few days a thick growth of vigorous shoots came up, tillered out considerably from the original roots so as nearly, or perhaps quite, to double the number of stalks. I counted them in a great many instances, and found them increased in this proportion. They grew rapidly, eared well, and, in the harvest, gave me about as much wheat as a common crop on such land. The stalks were considerably shorter than usual, and the ears smaller, but they were well filled, and the grain was good: and, so far as I could judge, the harvest was but very little if any later than usual. Some of my neighbors, whose fields lay contiguous to mine, and whose wheat was some few days earlier, had no harvest at all; and in some the grain was destroyed in spots, while other spots sprouted like mine and afforded a good yield.

The effect of this frost on fruit trees, deserves notice, for it changed the *bearing year*, of almost every orchard in this country. Another thing is worth mentioning. Our forest trees, consisting principally of white beech, maple, birch, &c. lost, that year, the annual concentric ring, in place of which was a thin deposit of a blackish substance, closely adhering, at first to the bark, and afterwards to the wood. It is yet to be seen in many saplings, such particularly as stood most exposed to the frost, and is now of the thickness of thin writing paper. It is of a brownish black color, mid-way between that of the dried wood, and the charcoal which it affords by being burnt, and is surrounded by the annual growth of every year since that time. It is the most conspicuous in saplings of white beech, such as stood pretty much alone, in frosty situations, and were then of 1 to 6 or 7 inches in diameter. The leaves of this tree were then nearly grown, if I recollect rightly, but still tender and juicy. Perhaps I may be incorrect in some of these recollections, and if so I should be glad to see them corrected by others. Since the frost, the bearing years of our orchards, have succeeded in the new order, established by the event. Many orchards have been made to bear more fruit every year, and on the whole the operation on our orchards has been highly beneficial. Such trees as were bearing that year, now only bear alternately in the series of that year which followed; and this has made the average products of each year more uniform than before. I find, also, that many of our Farmers are impressed with a belief that such of their trees as had been but bad bearers before that event, have ever since been good bearers, but of the justness of this opinion I have no certain evidence, although it seems well established in public opinion.

C.

Rutland, Vermont, January, 1816.

To the Editor of the American Magazine.

SIR—

THE following singular facts, concerning the tillering of grain, or the production of new stalks round the original plume, merit the attention of our Farmers. I have noticed a case of this kind, in a crop of wheat cut down by frost, in the state of Vermont, which tillered in an extraordinary degree, and by this means yielded a full crop.* And this circumstance deserves consideration: for if, when the original stalk was thus destroyed by frost, the greater disposition to tiller provided a remedy, it may be questioned if this disposition should not, occasionally be provoked by artificial means, in the power of every Farmer. On rich soils, the growth of the stalk, which runs up singly, is often too luxuriant for a good yield of grain. Where this is the case, feeding, by checking this propensity, may cause them to tiller more, and by producing a greater number of stalks, of a diminished size, which the roots may support erect, be the means of affording a greater yield, and of a better quality of grain. It seems, however, that the drill-husbandry, practised a good deal in Europe, but hardly known in America, is best adapted for affording full and conclusive evidence of the advantages derived from encouraging this tillering propensity. This method consists in detaching the roots of each plant, and planting them separately in the ground, a method too full of labor for our use in these states, except it be in some careful experiment to acquire new varieties. I have known one single ear, or head, of extraordinary promise, selected from a field of common wheat, which yielded an average of 126 stalks to every seed contained in the ear. New and valuable varieties of grain may be readily had in this way, and I wish more persons would submit to the labor of the experiment. But this is leading me from my more immediate object, at this time:—and why should not the relation do so, as well as the experiment, which always leads one astray;—the very reason that so few engage in making them?

The following statement is taken from the British Philosophical Transactions, Vol. LVIII. p. 203. Mr. C. Miller, of Cambridge, sowed some wheat on June 2, 1766; and on the 8th of August following, a plant was selected that he separated into 18 parts, and replanted; these plants were again taken up and divided, in the months of Sept. and Oct., and planted separately to stand the winter, which division produced 67 plants. In March, and April, they were again taken up, and produced 500 plants: the number of ears thus formed from one grain of wheat, in a single year, was 21,109, which gave 3 pecks and 3 quarts of grain, that weighed 47lbs. 7ozs.; and which were estimated to contain 576,840 grains.

This statement at least shows the practicability of soon getting seed from any single ear that the Farmer may chance to discover in his field, which seems, by its growth, and the good qualities it exhibits, to demand the care and labor of an experiment. In an old Work of Sir Kenelm Digby, written in 1660, we are informed that there was then in the possession of some persons at Paris, which they kept as a great curiosity, a plant of Barley, which consisted of 249 stalks, springing from one root, or grain; and in which there was formed above 18,000 grains, or barley seeds.

* See page 438.

I could go on, now, with speculations and arguments, on these facts, after the examples of the works before me, but as I write solely with a view to engage the attention of practical men, real Farmers, I leave these for some other occasion. In order, however, to make the great importance of researches and experiments of this kind appear more clearly, it is only necessary to remark that from the common wild *Crab*, have been produced all our varieties of the *Apple*. It is well known that the fruit of this tree is all of a diminutive size, pretty uniform in appearance, and all sour and unpalatable: what a numerous progeny have the arts of cultivation derived from this indigenous, neglected parent of apple trees, and of fruits so rich and varied in excellence! In like manner, if we examine the common wild *Plum*, and compare it with the rich *magnum bonum*, we see another evidence of the value and effect of cultivation. As a natural production of the soil, *Wheat*, in its indigenous state, appears to have been a very small *grass*, from which, in time, by casualty and care, we have gained all the varieties of this golden grain. It may be remarked, generally, that the seeds of plants exalted or improved by cultivation, always furnish large and improved varieties, so long as they are cultivated with care;—but deteriorate, and commence on the descending scale, when the cultivation fails of affording nourishment proportioned to the vigor and luxuriance of the plant. Thus, in time we may exalt the *Crab* to the *Golden Pippin*, and debase the *Pippin* again to the *Crab*. And the same remark is applicable to all the productions of nature, capable of amelioration by art. Breeds may be crossed, and new and improved varieties formed, with as much certainty and success in Botany; as in Zoology. In our cider districts, we see some of the finest varieties of our apples gradually dying away. The Farmer should be taught that he may certainly produce new and valuable varieties to supply their place, as well by grafting, which every one knows, as by applying the pollen, or dust, of the stamina of one variety to the pistil of another of the same species. This is all effected by simply shaking the flowers of some choice variety, over those you wish to improve, at a time when fully formed and the pollen elaborated, which is known by inspection, at the first glance of the eye. But—however agreeable it might be to pursue these remarks, I must leave them, and for the same reasons that called off your Correspondent, Scrutator, from his experiments.

AGRICOLA.

For the American Magazine.

A NEW METHOD OF SMOAKING HAMS.

A FARMER of my acquaintance informs me he has long practised the following method of preserving Hams and other smoaked meat, and as it is attended with far less trouble than that commonly practised, I take the liberty to recommend its publication.

The Casks in which he salts and cures his Hams, are smoaked during 6 or 8, or even 10 hours, with a smoak made of birch bark, or corn cobs, when the Hams are put into them as usual. The pickle, he asserts, draws out the smoak, and completely effects all that could be effected by hanging and smoaking in the usual way, and with far less trouble. If this method succeeds as well as I have reason to believe, it is certainly well deserving attention.

AGRICOLA.

For the American Magazine.

PERSIAN TALES.

WE learn, with great pleasure, that BARON LESCOILLIER, late Consul General of France, in New-York, has finally yielded to the persuasions of his friends, and that he will shortly present to the publisher, a very interesting selection of Instructive and Moral Tales, translated by that Gentleman, from the Persian into the French and English languages. The collection was made by him several years since, in India and we learn that these translations, with additional Notes, critical and explanatory, on the Manners, Customs, the Religion, and other circumstances of the Oriental Nations, have occupied his leisure hours, as well during his voyage, as since his residence in America. The various literary Works of this gentleman have made him well known to the literary public in Europe; and it is only necessary to add that these Tales have never yet been published, except in the Persian language. The reputation of the Translator, is a pledge for their moral tendency, as well as general effect. We know not on what terms the publication is to be undertaken, but we do not hesitate to offer every aid in our power toward forwarding the success of his plan.

"Tales," says his Author, "present the means of disseminating, successfully, useful truths, the principles of sound morality;—and of spreading abroad in the world, the knowledge and the love of virtue. Read these Tales, and you will find in them a good intention and useful tendency; you will learn to grow better, and to walk with firmness in the paths of virtue and truth," &c. &c. The titles of these Works are, 'THE ENCHANTED THRONE,' and 'TALES OF THE PAROQUET': the first containing 32 Tales; the other 48. The present circumstances of his country, may delay the return of the Translator, and we learn that it is in contemplation to present, at once, the English and the French translations, separate or together: so that every class of Readers may be accommodated. The Works will be correctly printed, and it is thought the acquisition may be useful to those who are studying the French language. We have been gratified with a partial examination of these Works, and feel an interest in recommending them to the patronage of the Public.

EDITOR.

Address of the Editor, to his Patrons, Readers and Correspondents.

THE publication of this Number, completes one Volume of THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE. I am now entitled, according to the terms of publication, to some compensation for my labor, and an expense little short of 2000 dollars. The delays that have occurred in the appearance of the Magazine, have been occasioned by pecuniary embarrassments, in consequence of which I have been compelled to assign over all the accounts. They are lodged in the hands of Absalom Townsend, Jun. Esq., of Albany, who is duly authorised to settle them, and to give receipts. I am also compelled

to add, that, they must be settled immediately. Such of my Subscribers as have received their Numbers for the year, will please promptly remit *three dollars*, and a receipt will be returned, if desired. Those who have discontinued their subscriptions, in consequence of delay in the publication, after having received six Nos., or half of the Volume, will please remit what they are in justice bound to do, and I must abide by this loss, occasioned by my own delinquency. If any single Nos. are wanting to complete the files, they will be supplied on application to the subscriber. The postage on Letters ought to be paid, unless they enclose three dollars:—and it ought to be, even then. But—to be explicit, I had rather pay postage on all Letters that enclose my dues, than not to receive them—so much are they wanted in payment of my debts: none, therefore, need refuse to pay, because of the charge of postage.

I must reprint Nos. 1, 2, and 4, when I shall be able to supply a few more Volumes, complete. The price is three dollars, in sheets, or three dollars fifty cents, in handsome half-binding. Persons having in their possession any spare copies of the above Nos., will confer a favor, and do an act of justice, by returning them immediately.

The publication of this Magazine, is discontinued, until I can ascertain the real patronage, and close all the accounts. My Subscription List, comprises a numerous collection of very respectable names. Should this publication be again revived, it will be in the hands of persons having ample pecuniary resources,—and who will punctually distribute the Nos. on the first of every Month. This, I think, is all that is now wanting to ensure a respectable patronage, and that permanency for which it was designed.

About to engage in other pursuits, I avail myself of this opportunity for presenting my most grateful acknowledgements to all those who have wished for my prosperity and success:—and to the public, generally, for the indulgence with which my writings have been received. During the ten years that I have devoted to literary labors, I have experienced a great share of public liberality, in the sale of near 12,000 Volumes, the fruit of these labors.—But—though I am grateful for the kindness I have experienced,—and particularly for the aid afforded me by numerous Correspondents;—yet I find myself under so many obligations, which circumstances have not enabled me to repay, that I have been led to conclude there is some radical fault in the plan of my pursuit. I am about to change it—and to devote, if Divine Providence permit, ten years to other labors, by which I am in hopes to redeem some time, and to gain some share of that mammon, which crowns success and sweetens every toil.

It is known to the public, that, in reference to the *Gazetteer*—and *A Natural and Civil History of the State of New-York*, which I designed to write, I have collected a great mass of such information as I sought, as well by correspondence, as by a careful selection from private papers and public documents. This collection amounts to almost 1000 sheets of original Letters, and, in the whole, to near 3000 sheets, besides papers and documents accessi-

ble to every body. Should I live 10 years, and at that time find myself in possession of a competency for my support, I might then use these papers in the way that I designed when collecting them: These circumstances are all contingent, however, and I think it advisable to dispose of them in some other way.

Now—there are men, basking in the sunshine of fortune—nurslings of the Republic, fattening on its treasures, by the favoritism of party,—sinecure place-men, who have money to spare, and all their time unoccupied;—and there are literary societies, enjoying the bounty of the state,—averse to labor, but aspiring for the honors of it;—and I offer to either or all of these, the use of all my papers, on fair and equitable terms. They have cost me a great deal of labor, and though of no value at present, they might prove a desirable acquisition. Should they remain in my hands, I shall use my utmost endeavors toward being able, at the expiration of the long period of ten years, to write a History of this State, for which I possess ample materials:—and, strange as it may appear, amidst such discouragements, a zeal so ardent in this kind of literary drudgery, as to make me disregard all its cares, perplexities and toils. With whatever of reluctance, I am in duty bound to abandon labors of this kind for the present—and I will conquer the aversion with which I turn to others. Had I determined on this at an earlier period, it would have been better for me:—but who has ever struggled with difficulties, contending with fortune, without finding hope delusive? Courage, is often but another name for desperation.

HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD.

☞ *Demagogos*, writes in the style and the spirit of the age from which he borrows his name. His Paper deserves every possible attention, but I have not been able to find room for it. Some smaller pieces from the same pen, merit the praise of the highest excellence. *D.* seems to have made labor of thought, or he could not have written so well. Such writings would soon give general currency to any periodical Work, and should this Magazine be again revived, they will declare their own merit.

A great many Communications remain on hand, from *Laertes*, *Agricola*, *Clericus*, *Franklin*, *Clermont*, *F. D. B.*, *Senex*, *Alpha*, *Americanus*, *Monetas*, *Philologus*, *Scrutator*, *Virginiana*, *Volney*, *G.*, and others, some of whose favors have already appeared in these pages. *Young*, and *Salinus*, were intended for this volume, but have been crowded out by a press of matter. *F. D. B.* from Detroit, would make near 20 pages—and he will see by this note of partial acknowledgement to Correspondents, the explanation of his non-appearance. *Virginiana*, on the establishment of a NATIONAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, was not received in time for this volume. The Paper signed *Natches*, which came by mail, with the Post mark of that place, was near 3 months on its passage, or it would have been published, if at the expense of an extra sheet. The specimens of *S-r*, and other products of the Mississippi, reached me long before this Paper. The long Letter of *T.*, from Calcutta, was not received in time for this volume. Should this ever reach him, he will please accept my most grateful thanks for his attention. *Alleghany*, will hear from me, in a short time, in the way he proposes. *Juvenis*, is returned. The Poem of *W-d*, is too heroic and full-of-fight, for the temper of the Editor or the taste of his Readers. With Copy enough on hand for 6 or 8 Nos., I close with a general acknowledgement of thanks for the liberal attention of my Correspondents. From what has been published, the public will judge of that which remains.

Ed.

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The Reader will please make the following Corrections, with his pen. Two of the Nos. were printed during the sickness of the Editor, when he was unable even to look at the *proof-sheets*; and 6 of them were printed at a distance of 30 miles from his residence, which prevented the necessary care in correcting the press. The most material errors that have been noticed, are corrected in the following

ERRATA.

- Page 96, line 28, for cough, read croup.
 108, line 40, far efficacious, read inefficacious.
 144, 1st line of 2d paragraph, for of, read for.
 149, line 19, dele on.
 170, line 19, for altogether, read all together.
 190, line 2, for France, read Farewell.
 250, line 18, for wars, read war.
 250, line 35, for then read there.
 254, line 10, from bottom, for and, read an.
 260, line 9 from bottom, for four, read few.
 261, line 1 of last paragraph, for grammarian, read grammarians.

ERRATA.

- Page 261, line 2, of last paragraph, for ever, read even.
264, line 3, for all, read of.
264, line 14, for were, read are.
265, line 16, for set, read sit.
279, line 2 from bottom, for purposes, read proposes.
280, line 13, for on, read in.
280, line 26, for foreign eyes, read former ages.
281, an awkward error of the press occurs, to correct which, see page 312.
291, line 25, after——, add and.
305, line 16, dele an, before appendix.
326, line 10, in a few copies, dele the, before science.
377, line 29, for of, read on.
391, line 7, for of, read and.
391, line 31, for duration, read direction.
392, line 10 from bottom, for convulsions, read concussions.
399, line 30, for the, read that.
400, line 8 from bottom, for is, read and.
425, line 21, for exerted, read excited.
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DIRECTIONS TO THE BLINDER.

- The View of Lake George, to face the title-page.
Wheel Carriage, p. 39.
The Dutch Church, 49.
View of Oswego, 345, or 369.
Lancaster-School-House, 377.
Falls of Niagara, 409.

